

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com

Thursday, July 2, 2009



Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 69.31 .58

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

BAD RELATIONS



Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya listens to a national anthem upon his arrival in Panama City, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Zelaya is in Panama to attend the inauguration ceremony of Ricardo Martinelli, Panama's President-elect.

See World News See Page 4

SPORTS NEWS

RODDICK ROLLS



Andy Roddick of U.S., applauds the spectators, after defeating Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in their men's singles quarterfinal match at Wimbledon, Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

See Sports Today Page 11

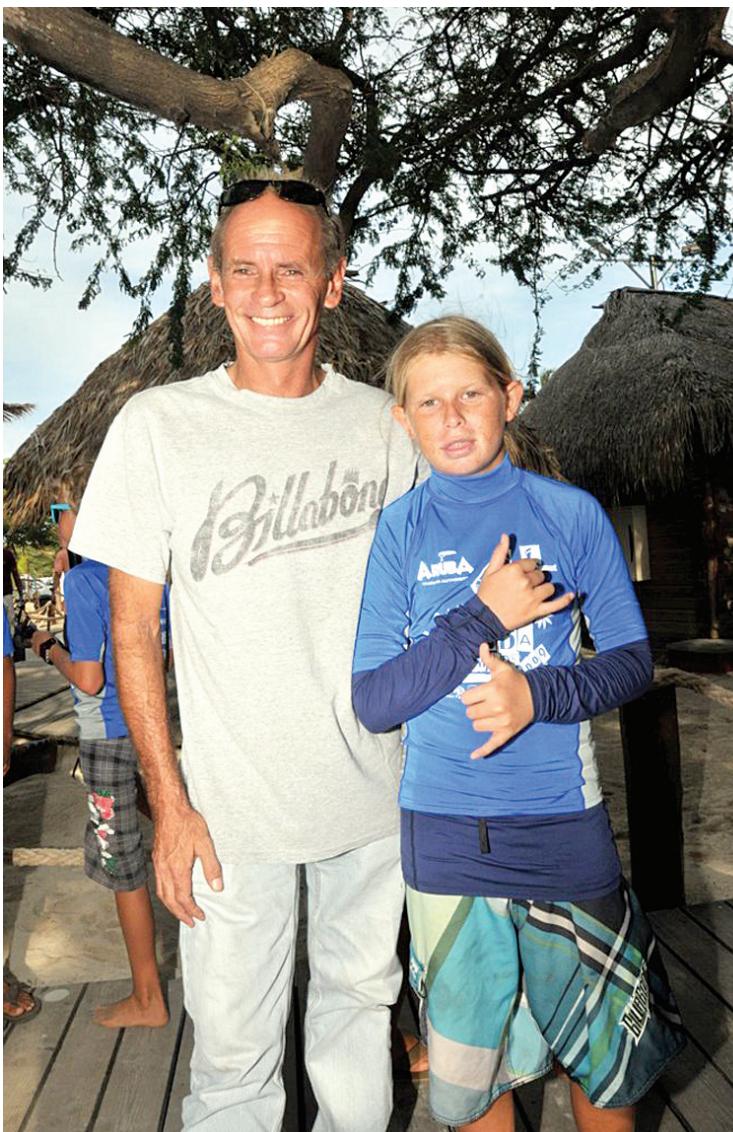
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Thursday, July 2, 2009

Minister of Tourism meets with islands top windsurfers

Aruba Hi-Winds kicks off with strong winds



MOOMBA BEACH - Aruba celebrates the 23rd anniversary of the annual Aruba Hi-Winds, the largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean. The event, taking place July 1 - 6, 2009 at the Fisherman's Huts and Boca Grandi on the east side of the island, features exciting windsurfing and kite boarding competitions for visitors of all ages.

Continued on Pages 8&9

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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

Top performers on the job applauded



PALM BEACH - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in honor of the nominees for Brand Champion of the Month for May, 2009.

The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments

and go above and beyond expectations.

During a beautiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following were named top of the class:

From Heart of the House-June Lake from Housekeeping, because of the pride she takes in making guests feel comfortable in their rooms (she received many guest comment cards reflecting the care she puts into her work); from Front of the House-Evelyn Croes of the Fun Department, for her excellent communication skills with her fellow co-workers, willingness to assist in other areas, and, most importantly, ensuring that Westin guests are enjoying their time on the beach and around the pool. Congratulations to both! Pictured here are the winners and nominees with General Manager Richard Roy. □

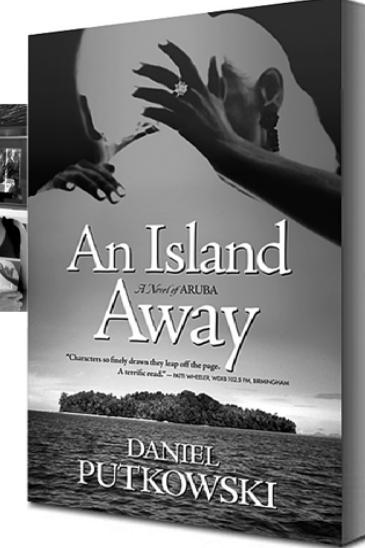
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DeWit & VanDorp - Oranjestad
Aruba Post - San Nicolas
Samson Bookstore - Antraco Retail Center
Antraco Bazaar - Casa Del Mar
Ocean Drive - Aruba Marriott Resort

Island Life - Marriott Ocean Club
Mistral - La Cabana
Red Sail Sports - Hyatt Regency Resort
Red Sail Sports - Port of Call
Tropical Breeze - Radisson Resort
Tradewinds - Westin Resort
Tropical Market - Marriott Ocean Club
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ANTRACO

Aruba, Antilles agree: Court stays in Curaçao



ARUBA--The Ministers of Justice of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles have agreed on the future organization of the Joint Court of Justice. Aruba Minister Rudy Croes (MEP) and Antilles Minister David Dick (PAR) have announced that the Court will remain in Curaçao.

Their proposal regarding the matter previously brought up for discussion by Aruba will be presented in the Kingdom Council of Ministers at the end of this week, during a meeting during which the Council will decide on the organization of the court after the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles. The Aruba-Curaçao proposal assumes that there will be one Court for the Caribbean countries of the Dutch

Kingdom, as the draft consensus Kingdom Law on the Joint Court already suggested. Aruba had voted against this proposal last year. The difference now planned is that a vice-president will be appointed for each country (Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the BES islands).

The president and the Court will officially remain in Curaçao, but will be changed regularly.

According to the two ministers, such a construction preserves the autonomy of the countries. The registry offices of the countries will belong to one organization, but the registrar of each country retains its entire authority and assists the vice-president.

It is not known whether the Netherlands will agree to

this new proposal. Antillean Minister David Dick stated that there was no plan B if the Netherlands did not agree, although he was pleased that Aruba and Curaçao were on the same wavelength again. The minister did not appreciate that Curaçao and the Netherlands had been accused of imposing something on Aruba regarding the future of the Court.

Therefore, both ministers decided to meet.

Croes, who had decided at the last moment not to participate in the judicial tripartite consultation between the three Kingdom countries last week, still had an informal meeting with Dick.

Dick then flew to Aruba for further talks, which resulted in the mutual proposal. □

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Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with
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The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75

Service charge not included.

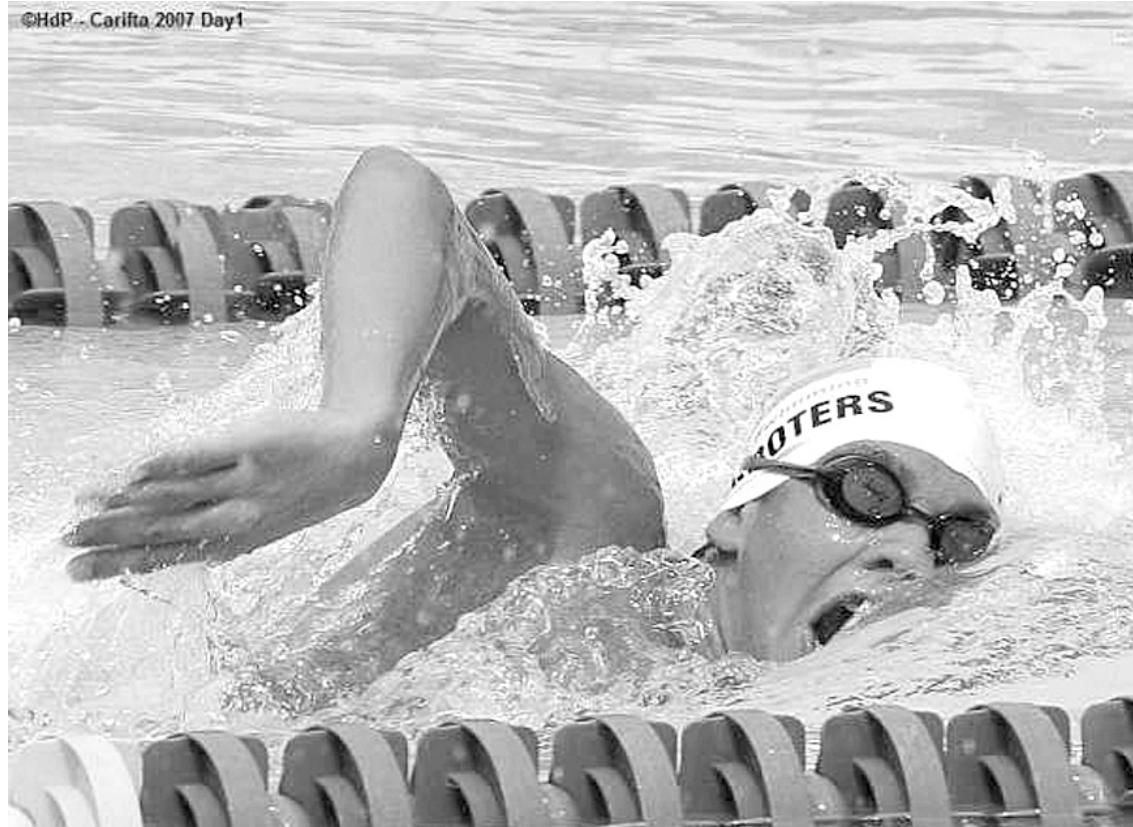
For reservations call 586-3659



**"FAVI FUNDACION
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In Venezuela

Aruba wins Two Medals on Day one of CCCAN



VENEZUELA – On Tuesday, June 30th 2009, The first day of the 'Campeonato Centro Americano y del Caribe di Natacion' (CCCAN), Aruba had an outstanding

start, earning a Silver and Bronze medal on the 200 meter Breaststroke by Ashley Groters and Jordy Groters, respectively.

Aside from that 7 of the

Team Aruba swimmers qualified for the finals with amongst them the two that were aforementioned. They are joined by Daniella van den Berg, who placed 6th in



the 200 meters Breaststroke; Jemal Le Grand, Ally Ponson, Sue-Gin Arends who came in on 6th, 7th and 8th in that order for the 50 meters Backstroke with Marellys Robles de Medina rounding out the 7 qualifiers who came in on the 8th place in the 200 meters Butterfly. The CCCAN is a youth swimming championship that this year is being held in Barquisimeto, Venezuela with various Central American

countries and islands of the Caribbean. The Championship started on Tuesday and will continue till Sunday. Neither the swimmers personal best times or records were improved thou this was likely due to colder climate conditions that Team Aruba is not used to. The delegation is none the less pleased with the results of the first competition day and hope to bring in more medals in the days to come. □

Prosecco Happy Hour in De Suikertuin on Friday



ORANJESTAD - De Suikertuin, the unique new breakfast and lunch restaurant in the Wilhelminastraat, is going all-out his Friday evening with a Prosecco Happy Hour.

For those who would like a bite to eat after having toasted to the weekend too many times, a fish skewer, fried potatoes and a salad is available.

Prosecco is the hottest drink in Holland at the moment. Lightly sparkling and fruity with a clean and fresh aftertaste, it is the perfect drink for a summer evening.

Try it and you're hooked! The Lunetta Prosecco of Friday evening is sold by the glass or by the bottle. Live music is courtesy of Cuban Ramon and his



gorgeous son and you can expect relaxed acoustic guitar music which will have you sway and swoon soon. De Suikertuin's first Happy Hour starts at 6 pm; dinner is at 7.

No reservations are required for the Happy Hour, but Gaston and Willeke need to know in advance whether you will join them for dinner. □

Il Vino Dei Poeti Brunello Di Montalcino

Distilleria Bottega Awarded “Best In Class - Silver Medal”



ORANJESTAD - Distilleria Bottega, which is present on the markets of more than 110 countries with grappa, wine and liqueurs, was awarded the Silver Medal and the prestigious “Best in Class” title in England for its Il Vino dei Poeti Brunello di Montalcino during the 2009 International Wine and Spirit Competition.

The company is proud that his wine achieved the best result among all the Brunello di Montalcino wines selected this year by IWSC.

Operators in the world of wine consider it one of the leading prizes worldwide for its standards, prestige and

the media attention given to the prizes awarded.

Distilleria Bottega completed its collection Il Vino dei Poeti with Brunello di Montalcino, the most famous Italian red wine.

This “special one” product comes from the reputed hilly area of Montalcino in Southern Tuscany. The wine is characterized by the intense ruby red color with pomegranate shades. A long-lasting and intense bouquet with captivating perfumes of red fruits introduces a dry, robust, full-bodied taste. It is well-balanced and keeps just the right amount of tannin. The

persistent aftertaste with scents of wood completes its profile. This wine goes well with important red-meat based dishes, braised, stewed, pot roasts, as well as with salami.

The 75 cl bottle is enriched by an elegant label with the logo Il Vino dei Poeti.

More information
Brunello di Montalcino is the only Tuscan wine whose “Sangiovese” was always historically bottled alone. The Brunello is a particularly strong wine for its high grade of alcohol and for its long aging time. The Sangiovese-grapes are usually picked from end-

September to mid-October; the juice is fermented on the grape skins for two to three weeks in stainless steel tanks under a controlled temperature. Once the alcoholic fermentation is over, the acid-softening malolactic will start naturally. This process softens and reduces the acidity and stabilizes the wine naturally, but moreover it gives the wine more depth, complexity and elegance. The wine is aged on the whole for 4 years, of which 2 and a half are in oak. Before release in January, the wine is aged a further 6 months in bottle.

4th of July 2009

Memory Lane Of Oldies

Back to the 60's, 70's and 80's

ORANJESTAD - On the 4th of July 2009 “Memory Lane Of Oldies” is organizing and Oldies party at the Havana Beach Club with local bands of Aruba that will take you back to the 60's, 70's and 80's. They'll let you remember the good old times with the oldies. The bands “The Tramps”, ‘The Reflections” and “Why Not” with songs that will get you way back into times. Also D.J. Padu Bislik will have his entertainment of music back down memory lane “Recordar is Vivir.”

At the entrance you will have a welcome drink. There will be door prizes such as weekend stays, dinner for two and gift certificates. There will also be surprise gifts for the best 60's, 70's and 80's male and female dress and best dance couple.

The bar will have special prizes from 9 o'clock with prizes for the 60's, from 10 o'clock with prizes for the 70's and 11 o'clock with prizes for the 80's. After 12 o'clock we'll have Around midnight there will be more prizes.

Part of the proceeds of the evening event will be donated to different social programs in the community.

Tickets are limited and available at Kelly Enterprises at Tanki Leendert 275-D, tel.: 5878989, 5678987 or 5601579 and Plaza Bookshop, Dakota, 5821821 or ask for more information at your Guest Relation Desk at your hotel. □

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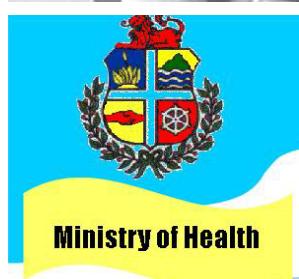
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**Department of Public Health
Aruba**

Welcome to Aruba

To enjoy your vacation it is important to prevent becoming sick.

To keep you and everyone around you safe, practice the following good health habits

1. Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Cover your mouth and nose

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

3. Clean your hands

Washing your hands often will protect you from germs.

4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

5. Practice other good health habits

Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

6. Feeling sick?

Please call 588-7381 / 588-7130



PALM BEACH - The organization of the Aruba Rembrandt Regatta has received an important sponsorship for its upcoming event. The Regatta, held next month on August 15 and 16, is for yachts, sunfishes, beachcats and windsurfers and features a Round-The-Island Race on Saturday 15. The sponsorship comes from Car Colour Aruba which donates a cash amount of 500 guilders for the winners in the three main categories. This was announced last Tuesday at the Varadero Shipwharf where the company introduced a new product for yachts and other boats: Jotun.

The brand from Norway offers high quality primers, coatings, a paint system for underwater hulls and antifouling, keeping the hull clean for perfect sailing without loss of speed. Car Colour Aruba, well known for its Sikkens Paints from Holland, offers these world class products for the first time on Aruba.. The Aruba Rembrandt Regatta wishes to thank Car Colour Aruba and Jotun Yachting for its contribution to the first edition of their international sailing event. □



Every Friday

Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must

Experience the fun and excitement of sailing Mexican-style aboard one of Red Sail Sports' luxurious catamarans. The 2-hour sail takes you along Aruba's scenic coastline, while being delighted by live Mariachi Music.

This vibrant unforgettable sail provides a casual Mexican Buffet Dinner and a complimentary bar featuring Coronita beer, Margaritas, and Tequilas. Watch

the sun set, the colors of the sky change and the island slowly light up. This is the perfect sail to celebrate the end of a Caribbean day and the start of a fun filled Caribbean night.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsilaruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.



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Don't miss the live Flamenco show on Fridays

Head downtown to Casa Tua Barcelona for Lunch & Dinner

ORANJESTAD - The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in-and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the 3-course



special for \$19.95. All nights we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucia. As your main course you should choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our

home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages. Of course we saved the best for



last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Casa Tua Barcelona
Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695
Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

*Live music
on Saturday*





BISTRO TASTE OF BELGIUM

Elegance and affordable luxury!
Taste of Belgium... a Bistro with a twist

PALM BEACH - Taste of Belgium's Bistro is located in the intimate courtyard of the Paseo Herencia Mall across from the Holiday Inn Resort. It is cozy and casual: one can have a drink with friends, have a quick bite before grabbing a movie or relax and lounge away the afternoon and evening in the balmy breeze underneath the stars. The Bistro's great selection of Belgian beers has drawn many beer lovers to the mall already, but it is its exquisite food, ample portions and great prices that keep folks coming back for more every night of the week.

The Bistro's menu offers everyone's favorites, but with a culinary Belgian twist. This might be an unusual

presentation, an awesome side dish, a stunning combination, a surprising regional dish or a dessert that takes you to heaven and back a few times. Good service and lots of smiles will surely make the Bistro one of your favorite places to go to. Open for coffee, lunch, drinks, dinner and cocktails.

Early Bird

When the rays of the sun start fading and the shadows grow a bit longer, many choose for an exceptionally good option for dinner: the Early Bird Special! The restaurant's sundown, 3-course menu is spectacular and its price can't be beat for \$ 25.00.
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Continued from Front Page

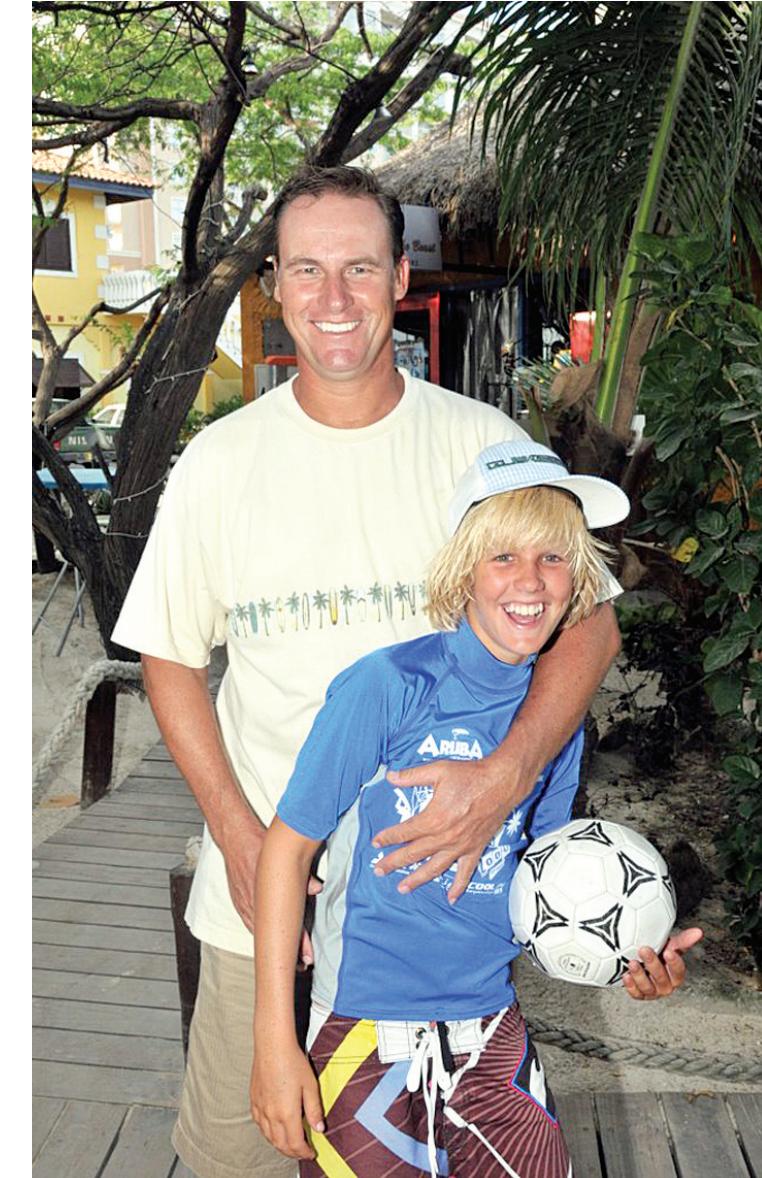
Aruba, famous for its year-round trade winds and calm seas, makes the island nation the perfect location for this series of events that attract professionals and amateurs alike. The Hi-Winds competition includes races for windsurfing



and kite boarding. Categories featured are long distance, course racing, slalom and freestyle for windsurfing; and course racing and freestyle for kite boarding. Each category is open for men, women, masters, juniors and kids.

In addition to enjoying the competitions during the day, the Hi-Winds organizing committee has put together fun festivities to entertain all participants and guests in the evenings. Celebrations include a welcome party at Moomba on the first evening, followed by an elegant dinner on the beach hosted by Divi Resorts. On Saturday, dinner will be served at De Palm Island, and Sunday's party will take place on the beach with live music.

This historic event dates back to 1987, where the Hi-Winds competition was the first event dedicated to hosting world champions and professionals in the windsurfing community. In 1997, the organizing committee turned the Hi-Winds from a top race to a fun, amateur event appealing to all



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on



the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II", is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:
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Rates per boat
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Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

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www.driftwoodaruba.com

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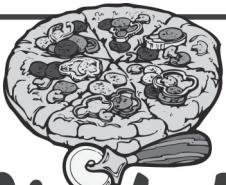
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This includes free entrance to the club, a table for four, and a bottle of premium alcohol of your choice, including free champagne, hors d'oeuvres, as well as a private show from a Foxy Lady. Our Red VIP room is for couples only, and is the hottest deal on the island.

This includes cover, as well as special incentives designed to help make the Foxy Lady a place you will never forget. □



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Mathew Entertainment

BES islands office holders keep rights with new status

THE HAGUE--Existing regulations on the legal position of office holders, namely the Lt. Governor, Commissioners and Island Council members, on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will largely remain the same when the islands become part of the Dutch Constellation. They will not be transferred to the Dutch system of political office holders.

Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Guusje ter Horst stated this in a letter to the Second Chamber dated June 26, 2009. The letter provides information on the current and future legal position of persons holding office on the three islands and it also gives details on their earnings.

The letter was promised by State Secretary of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten during a meeting

with Parliament's Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ late May this year.

In the letter, Ter Horst explained that existing rights and privileges will be maintained as much as possible based on the point of departure that the current Antillean legislation will largely remain applicable when the new status of Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius goes into effect late 2010.

"There will be no transfer to the Dutch system of political office holders," stated Ter Horst, who also mentioned the differences in fiscal policies, the basic level of services, currency and the varying cost of living adjustment levels. The Minister said she saw "no reason" for a drastic review of the rights and privileges of elected and appointed government officials.

Ter Horst further explained

that it wasn't sensible to adapt the legal position in the time leading up to the next elections on the three islands of March 2011. Lastly, she stated that it wasn't feasible to adapt the current rights and privileges considering the connection with the legal position of government personnel such as police, coast guard, customs, prison system, the judiciary and island civil servants.

In her letter to the Second Chamber, Ter Horst compared the earnings of the Lt. Governors, Commissioners and Island Council members to what their colleagues in the Netherlands earned. She explained that the earnings of the Lt. Governors on Saba and St. Eustatius were comparable to the income of a mayor of a Dutch municipality with a

similar population size. The Lt. Governor of Bonaire earns less than a mayor of a Dutch municipality with a similar population size.

According to a sheet provided by Ter Horst, the Lt. Governors of Saba and St. Eustatius earn a total salary of NAF. 10,506 plus an allowance of NAF. 852. In Bonaire the Lt. Governor earns a salary of NAF. 11,501 plus an allowance of NAF. 1,085. In the Netherlands, a mayor of a town with a population of 14,001 to 24,000 earns 700 to 2,000 euros more than his 'colleague' in Bonaire. Commissioners in Bonaire and St. Eustatius earn less than aldermen of Dutch municipalities. Saban and Statian commissioners receive a salary of NAF. 8,700, whereas their colleagues on

Bonaire earn NAF. 9,257. Aldermen of small Dutch towns comparable in size to Saba earn some 500 euros less than the commissioners on Saba. Aldermen of Dutch municipalities with 2,000-4,000 inhabitants earn some 350 euros more than the commissioners on St. Eustatius. Because of the monetary system on the Netherlands Antilles, commissioners also receive an allowance since they are members of the Island Council. On Bonaire, Island Council members receive an allowance of NAF. 942, in St. Eustatius NAF. 800 and in Saba NAF. 418. With the exception of St. Eustatius, these amounts are comparable to the allowances of members of municipal councils in the Netherlands. □



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PM and Dick report to parliament on watch list



Parliament President Pedro Atacho

WILLEMSTAD--Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage and Justice Minister David Dick were in parliament Tuesday to explain why the Netherlands Antilles has been put on the United States watch list for human smuggling. Parliament President Pedro

Atacho said parliament is concerned about this development and wants to hear the details as well as what will be done by government to correct the issue.

The Antilles has a strict human smuggling law in place but due to the proximity

of, especially, the Windward Islands to US territories, smugglers sometimes use this as a start point.

Finance Minister Ersilia de Lannooy will explain today explained in a Central Committee meeting of parliament the problems facing the pension of retired civil servants as well as the government medical cards FZOG. This meeting was scheduled for two weeks ago but was postponed because of the minister's busy schedule. The meeting was requested by parliamentarian Marlon Jamaloodin (PAR) and Anthony Nicolaas (Independent Bonaire).

The final point on today's agenda is the approval of the final statement from the recently bi-partite meeting between Aruba and the Antilles.

The Central Committee discussed the trip of parliamentarian Dudley Lucia (PNP) to China as part of his responsibilities as secretary of Parliaments of Latin America

Parlatino Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee.

The Chinese government may assist the Parlatino to construct its headquarters in Panama City. The headquarters will cost some US \$13 million. China is an associate member of Parlatino. Strengthening relations with China was also discussed.

Parliament also decided about the attendance of two members to the Caribbean Association National Telecommunications Organisations CANTO conference in Trinidad from July 12-15. Parliamentarians were invited to attend the conference by Telecommunications Minister Maurice Adriaens.

Participation in the parliamentary forum on light arms and weapons was also decided in the Central Committee.

The Association of Pharmacy Owners meets the Central Committee of Parliament Wednesday about the introduction of legislation on compensation system for

medicines.

The Curaçao Promotion Foundation will give the Central Committee a presentation of the latest conference on aviation policy for Country Curaçao.

On Friday, the Central Committee discussed the supplement budget for 2008. Parliament issued a final report on the budget and forward this to government so immediately after the summer recess a public meeting can be convened to decide on this budget that will have a surplus of NAf. 148.8 million.

This surplus is based on an additional income from Central Bank due to extra tax income and less expenses on services and goods of government. Part of this surplus will be invested in capital projects and policy for the five islands.

This week of parliamentary meetings will be the last before the recess starts. Parliament will be back in session on August 1 but meetings will be called during the recess in the event of any urgent matter. □

Klein Curacao Challenge

Parliament not yet informed about scrapping of elections



Sometimes young kids have big dreams and want to challenge themselves.

Nine Optimist sailors between the ages of eleven and fifteen challenged themselves to sail in 2.5 meter Optimist from 'Klein Curacao' to Curacao, a 30 km crossing on open sea with high waves and strong winds. On Saturday 13 June, the young sailors and their boats embarked the motor vessel 'Mermaid' and set off to the remote island of Klein Curacao. Why did they want to challenge themselves? First of all to make the population more aware that around Curacao, a small island within the Netherlands Antilles, there is splendid water which should be used to the fullest. Secondly, to show that children are able to do more things than one

frequently thinks. Third, for training for the OPTINAM 2009, with an emphasis on the down wind technique; and finally to raise money to participate in the North American Optimist Championships, the OPTINAM 2009 in the Dominican Republic. After a briefing by coach Martin Jenkins, the sailors departed Klein Curacao around 11.00 accompanied by five rescue boats. The conditions were perfect, force 4 to 5 and waves between 1.70 and 1.90 meter. Without any problems, just a couple of capsizes and nosedips, all sailors reached the Lions Dive Hotel safely around 16.30. Kevin van Otterdijk (14), Kevin Maas (13), Jarrik Bijsterbosch (13), Eugene (15) en Louis (13) Hendrikx, Deion (13) en Jorden (11) van Rooijen and Just (13) and Odile (11) van Aanholt can be very proud of themselves.

At the beach the team was welcomed by parents, family, friends, sponsors and the press. Mr Millerson and Mr van Wilgen of the Netherlands Antilles Olympic Committee presented the AHO flag to the team, congratulated them and wished them good luck at the OPTINAM 2009.

The draft amendment to the constitution should also be ready for approval by the end of September when the PSG is set to meet again and a formal decision is to be made on when the Antilles will cease to exist and the new countries and entities will be birthed, Atacho said. This amendment must be passed before January 2010.

If the draft amendment is ready by the end of September and clears the Advisory Council

and the first round of Parliament, "it might be possible in one to two months to have that approved."

Two-thirds of the 22-member Parliament must agree to any change to the constitution. Changes would also need to be vetted and approved by the Kingdom Government.

Amending the constitution is also a longer procedure than any change to any other law, Atacho said. "It is not something that only the Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles will be dealing with [this] with the Central Government. Also the Kingdom Government must give its comments on the law proposal." Parliament and the Kingdom Government must approve the change to the constitution. Before the change can become effective, it must be published in the National Gazette.

Changing the constitution can be a lengthy process. Atacho pointed out that the amendment to the constitution to make Parliament independent from the Central Government had taken several years to be completed.

"If there is the necessary cooperation of the Dutch Government, the Antillean Government, and Parliament, and not to forget the cooperation of the civil servants on both sides of the ocean, it would be possible to have that ready within a relatively short period of time," he said. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks advance after mixed data; Jobs report looms

By MADLEN READ and IEVA M. AUGSTUMS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK—Investors kicked off the stock market's third quarter with a moderate gain after getting some reassuring data on manufacturing and housing.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 0.7 percent Wednesday, rebounding from the previous day's selloff that was triggered by a drop in consumer confidence. Other indexes made moderate advances as well.

The buying was tempered by caution ahead of Thursday's June jobs report.

"That's going to be the big one," said Chris Johnson, president of Johnson Research Group. "People are keeping their eye on the unemployment figure."

The Labor Department is expected to report another uptick in the unemployment rate to 9.6 percent, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. Growing unemployment has been keeping investors nervous about consumer spending—a major driver of growth.

Much of Wednesday's data was positive, including a report showing more stable manufacturing activity in the United States, and another indicating the fourth straight monthly rise in pending home sales. Stocks also got a boost from European markets, which rose following similarly upbeat manufacturing data in that region.

Not all of the economic news was upbeat, however. Construction spending fell in May by more than the market expected, and according to the ADP National Employment Report, the private sector lost more jobs in June than anticipated.

Some of Wednesday's bounce may simply have been due to stocks appearing cheaper

following Tuesday's drop and investors looking to put money to work as the new quarter began.

"Some of the buying that wasn't done yesterday is being done today," said Richard E. Cripps, chief market strategist for Stifel Nicolaus, adding that he was surprised by Wednesday's upward move. "There isn't a lot of convincing volume here to read too much into this."

The Dow rose 57.06, or 0.7 percent, to 8,504.06. It climbed as high as 8,580.47 in earlier trading, but then pared its gains as the day went on. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.01, or 0.4 percent, to 923.33. The Nasdaq composite index rose 10.68, or 0.6 percent, to 1,845.72.

Scott Fullman, director of derivatives investment strategy for WJB Capital Group, said the employment report — along with thin, pre-holiday trading volumes — could make for a volatile market Thursday. U.S. markets are closed Friday in observance of the July Fourth holiday.

Nonetheless, investors remain optimistic that the economy will be in better shape by the end of the year. "The belief is the worst is behind us," Fullman said.

About three stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to a lower-than-usual 4 billion shares, versus 4.9 billion shares the day before.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, was flat at 3.54 percent. In an upbeat earnings report, General Mills Inc. said its fiscal fourth-quarter profit nearly doubled. The maker of Cheerios cereal and Yoplait yogurt also offered earnings guidance for 2010 above analysts' expectations. Shares

rose \$2.16, or 3.9 percent, to \$58.18.

The biggest gainer among the 30 Dow stocks was Kraft Foods Inc., another food maker. Kraft rose \$1.27, or 5 percent, to \$26.61.

Analysts say earnings reports coming in the next few weeks will largely determine which way the market heads in the third quarter. Investors are especially eager to hear what companies have to say about business prospects in the second half of the year.

Markets have made a stunning recovery since hitting 12-year lows in early March. All the major indexes rose by double-digit percentage points in the second quarter, while the S&P 500 index and the Nasdaq composite index finished higher for the first six months of 2009.

The major indexes have pulled back from multi-month highs



An job seeker, right, talks with a staffer at a job workshop in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, June 30, 2009. U.S. stock futures are extending early gains Wednesday, July 1, after a report that private sector job losses slowed last month.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

in mid-June amid growing doubts about the strength of the economy's recovery.

But Eric Ross, director of research at Canaccord Adams, said he doesn't think investors have fully appreciated how much the economy has stabilized.

"They are waiting for another leg down on the market, and I'm not sure we're going to see it," Ross said. "There is too much money on the sidelines."

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 9.18, or 1.8 percent, to 517.46. □

Dollar slips vs euro, pound on mixed economic data

NEW YORK — The dollar was lower against most major currencies Wednesday on mixed economic reports that showed more stable manufacturing activity and a rise in pending home sales.

Investors were also awaiting data on unemployment for June to be released Thursday, as well as an interest rate decision by the European Central Bank.

The 16-nation euro bought \$1.4148 in late New York trading, up from the \$1.4042 it bought late Tuesday. The British pound inched up to \$1.6474 from \$1.6462.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said its manufacturing index registered 44.8 in June, up from 42.8 in May. Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters had expected a reading of 44.5.

A reading below 50 indicates contraction. June's reading marks the 17th straight month of deterioration in manufacturing.

The National Association of Realtors, meanwhile, said pending home sales rose for a fourth straight month in May. The index of pending sales, which tracks signed contracts

to purchase previously owned homes, rose 0.1 percent to 90.7, better than expected.

Also Wednesday, a Commerce Department report showed that construction spending fell 0.9 percent in May, nearly double the 0.5 percent economists had expected, and activity in the past two months was revised lower.

The ECB is expected to keep its key interest rate unchanged at 1 percent at its meeting in Luxembourg Thursday and will likely cautiously note some signs that the euro zone economy is stabilizing following unprecedented liquidity injections and big declines in the cost of borrowing.

Higher interest rates can support a currency as investors steer funds to better returns in investments denominated in that currency.

Currency trading may gain further direction from Thursday's U.S. non-farm payrolls report. U.S. markets are closed Friday in observance of the Independence Day holiday. In other late trading Wednesday, the dollar dropped to 1.1490 Canadian dollars from 1.1621 late Tuesday, and fell to 1.0747 Swiss francs from 1.0853 francs. The dollar rose to 96.52 Japanese yen from 96.32 yen. □

Plan to bury Michael Jackson at Neverland fizzles

By ANTHONY

MCCARTNEY,

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — A plan to bury Michael Jackson at his sprawling Neverland ranch fizzled Wednesday, leaving details about his funeral undecided as another mystery was solved: His newly unveiled will says his mother should raise his children, or failing her, Diana Ross.

The changing funeral circumstances thwarted many Jackson fans who had descended on the estate in the rolling hills near Santa Barbara with the hope of attending a public viewing.

"We're terribly disappointed," said Ida Barron, 44, who arrived with her husband Paul Barron, 56, intending to spend several days in a tent.

"We were going to listen to music and watch Michael Jackson DVDs and party all night long, not just to have fun, but in memory of Michael Jackson," Paul Barron said. "Now we're going to have to just go home."

Jackson's 7-year-old will, filed Wednesday in a Los Angeles court, gives his entire estate to a family trust and names his 79-year-old mother Katherine and his children as beneficiaries. The will also estimates the current value of his estate at more than \$500 million.

Katherine Jackson was appointed their guardian, with entertainer Diana Ross, a longtime friend of Michael Jackson, named successor guardian if something happens to his mother. Ross introduced the Jackson 5 on the Ed Sullivan Show in the late 1960s and was instrumental in launching their career.

Meanwhile, Jackson family spokesman Ken Sunshine said a public memorial was in the works for Jackson but wouldn't be held at Neverland. In addition, it appeared more likely that a funeral and burial would take place in Los Angeles, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

But the person, who is not authorized to speak for the family and requested anonymity, said nothing was planned for Neverland, at least through Friday.

The person said billionaire



The train station at Neverland Ranch in Los Olivos, Calif., Wednesday, July 1, 2009 as preparations are made for a possible memorial service for the late pop star Michael Jackson at his former residence as seen in a aerial view.

(AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

Thomas Barrack, who owns Neverland in a joint venture with Jackson, sought an exemption to bury the singer at the ranch. But the person says it's a complicated process and it couldn't be done for a burial this week.

"The family is aware a Neverland burial is not possible. They are expected to make decisions about whatever funeral and memorial service" will take place, the person said.

Heavy construction equipment and workers were seen passing through the wrought-iron gates of Neverland on Tuesday. It wasn't clear what they were doing. The property is about 120 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

At once a symbol of Jackson's success and excesses, Neverland — nestled in wine country — became the site of a makeshift memorial after his death.

In Los Angeles, Jackson's lawyer John Branca and family friend John McClain, a music executive, were named in the will as co-executors of his estate. In a statement, they said the most important element of the will was Jackson's steadfast desire that his mother become the legal guardian for his children.

"As we work to carry out Michael's instructions to safeguard both the future of his children as well as the remarkable legacy he left us as an artist, we ask that all matters involving his estate be handled with the dignity and the respect that Michael and his family deserve," the statement said.

The will doesn't name father

Joe Jackson to any position of authority in administering the estate.

The executors moved quickly to take control of all of Michael Jackson's property, going to court hours after filing the will to challenge a previous ruling that gave Katherine Jackson control of 2,000 items from Neverland.

Paul Gordon Hoffman, an attorney for the executors, told Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff his clients are the proper people to take over Jackson's financial affairs. He called Katherine Jackson's speed in getting limited power over her son's property "a race to the courthouse that is frankly improper."

Judge Beckloff urged attorneys from both sides to try to reach a compromise.

"I would like the family to sit down and try to make this work so that we don't have a difficult time in court," the judge said. A hearing on the estate was set for Monday.

The will, dated July 7, 2002, gives the entire estate to the Michael Jackson Family Trust. Details of the trust will not be made public.

The documents said Jackson's estate consisted almost entirely of "non-cash, non-liquid assets, including primarily an interest in a catalog of music royalty rights which is currently being administered by Sony ATV, and the interests of various entities."

Jackson owns a 50 percent stake in the massive Sony-ATV Music Publishing Catalog, which includes music by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Neil Diamond, Lady Gaga and the Jonas Brothers. □

Media on standby for Jackson memorial plans

By DAVID BAUDER,

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK — The mysteries that continue to surround Michael Jackson's death include a frustrating and potentially costly one for news organizations: how and when the fallen pop idol will be laid to rest and where a memorial service would be held.

A memorial is being planned, but not at Jackson's former Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif. Some news organizations had been privately planning for a Neverland viewing or burial on Friday, the beginning of a holiday weekend. Now plans are on hold and reporter vigils continue.

"It can be a little bit of a hassle," said CBS News executive Susan Zirinsky. "But this is the funeral of a celebrity that has great interest. We'll figure it out. This is not the same as a massive terrorist attack."

There's little indication that media interest is fading. Six days after Jackson's death, it was still the lead story on all three network morning news shows. Even though its producer admitted to some doubts about it earlier Tuesday, a Katie Couric-anchored CBS News special won its time slot with 8.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. CNN called it a "shocking change of plans" when a Jackson family spokesman said Wednesday there would be nothing at Neverland. The network said sources had been telling CNN that something was planned there for Friday.

In addition to upending plans, the announcement illustrated the difficulty in hunting for solid information in a competitive environment when it's not really clear who has it. That was particularly evident when Matt Lauer interviewed Jackson family friend Al Sharpton on the "Today" show Wednesday, when Sharpton was unable to answer several questions because he'd been in New York for two days and away from the Jacksons.

On "The Early Show," CBS reported on questions about the paternity of Jackson's children with the Internet trio of Harvey Levin, Diane Dimond and Roger Friedman, who delivered contradictory information without naming sources, leaving the issue cloudier than when the story began.

One logistical advantage for networks is that they have sizable Los Angeles bureaus. Although ABC, for example, has sent a dozen or so extra people in for the story on an open-ended basis, it's not like transporting large staffs into remote areas, said Kate O'Brian, senior vice president of news.

"As frustrating as it can be, we do this for a living," O'Brian said. "So our folks are kind of used to it."

CNN has sent Anderson Cooper and Sanjay Gupta to Los Angeles for the story with no indication of how long they will be there. Larry King is already based there. MSNBC will use correspondent Chris Jansing as its chief correspondent and anchor the story from New York over the weekend, with staffing plans dependent on what the Jacksons decide, a spokesman said.

"I don't know what tomorrow is going to bring on this story," said Bart Feder, senior vice president of current programming at CNN. "I just know we're going to be prepared for it."

Two further indications that networks expect the story to have staying power: ABC News said its Friday "20/20" will be devoted to Jackson, and CNN announced two weekend repeats of its Jackson documentary that already ran multiple times last weekend.

NBC's Lauer headed across the country after Wednesday's "Today" show for Neverland, where some fans have been conducting a vigil. He was given access to the grounds for Thursday's show by the real estate company that now owns it, said Jim Bell, "Today" executive producer. □

Kevin Jonas, of Jonas Brothers, engaged

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Kevin Jonas, the eldest member of the teen heartthrobs the Jonas Brothers, may soon be able to shed his purity ring as Wednesday People magazine reported the 21-year-old pop star is now engaged.

Danielle Deleasa, a 22-year-old former hairdresser who Jonas met two years ago in the Bahamas, quickly said yes to his proposal, but the two have not set a wedding date yet. He popped the question after taking an overnight flight from a concert in Vancouver, and showing up at her doorstep in New Jersey, on his knee with ring in hand.

"It was tough performing last night, knowing that I was going to ask the biggest question in my life to the most amazing girl in the world," People quoted Jonas as saying.

His younger brothers, 19-year-old Joe and 16-year-old Nick, are still on the market. All prominently wear purity rings, symbolizing their promise to refrain from sex until marriage.

The Jonas Brothers, who soared to fame as members of Disney's stable of teenage stars, last week scored their second No. 1 album in less than a year on the U.S. pop album chart when "Lines, Vines and Trying Times" sold 250,000 units. But first-week sales were less than half of those for their previous studio effort. □



Kevin Jonas performs with the Jonas Brothers band on NBC's "Today" show in New York in this June 19, 2009 file photo. The 21-year-old purity ring-wearing pop star proposed to his girlfriend on July 1, 2009 and she quickly agreed, People magazine reported.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid/Files (UNITED STATES ENTERTAINMENT)

Jolie, Aniston are Hollywood top-earning actresses

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Angelina Jolie is Hollywood's top earning actress, banking \$27 million in the past year to beat out her partner Brad Pitt's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston, who raked in \$25 million, a Forbes.com study showed on Wednesday.

Most of Jolie's income came from her share of the profits from her action film "Wanted," but she was also paid a large upfront sum for her role in "Salt," the study said. Jolie and Pitt have six children.

Aniston, who was married to Pitt before he became involved with Jolie, earned most of her millions from the romantic comedy "Marley and Me" and her upcoming film "The Baster."

"Aniston also still earns money from (reruns of TV series) Friends and she gets a nice paycheck shilling for Glaceau's SmartWater," Forbes.com said.

Meryl Streep came in at No. 3 with \$24 million, most of which came from her role in "Mamma Mia," while Sarah Jessica Parker was ranked fourth with \$23 million in earnings following the movie version of TV series "Sex and the City."

Cameron Diaz rounds out the top five, banking \$20 million between June 2008 and June 2009.

Forbes.com said it spoke to agents, managers, producers and lawyers to work out what actresses were paid upfront for movies they are currently shooting and what pay they might have earned after a movie hit the theaters. Money earned from perfume or clothing lines was also taken into account.

"As is still typical for Hollywood, our actresses earned significantly less than their male counterparts," Forbes.com said, pointing out that the top earning male actor, Harrison Ford, made \$65 million. □

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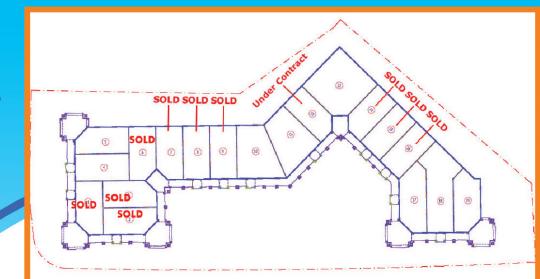
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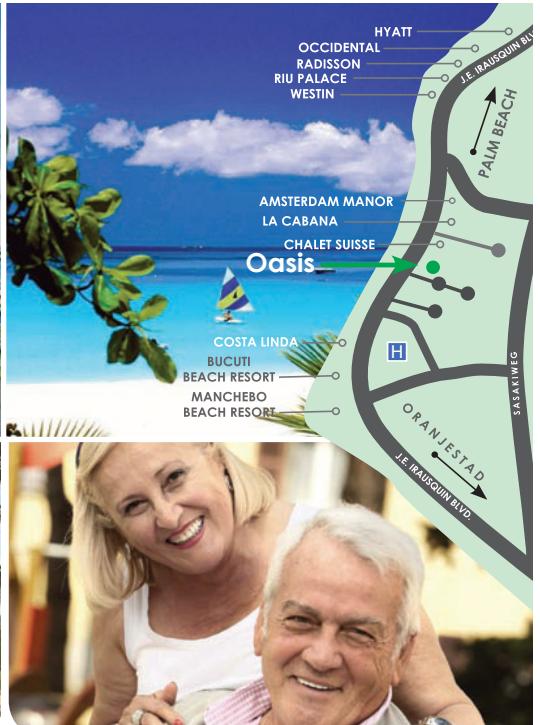
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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, July 2, 2009



Citing the Legislature's failure to pass a budget plan, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that he was declaring a fiscal emergency to address California's deficit during a Capitol news conference in Sacramento, Calif., Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Lawmakers will have 45 days to send him a plan to balance the state's budget which ended the fiscal year with a \$24.3 billion deficit.

Associated Press

California, other states face tough budget choices

JUDY LIN

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a fiscal emergency Wednesday to address California's deficit and ordered state offices closed three days a month to save cash.

The Legislature will have 45 days to send him a plan to balance the state's budget, which ended the fiscal year with a \$24.3 billion deficit. The shortfall is expected to grow by as much as \$7 billion because the Legislature did not enact several stopgap measures on Tuesday.

If lawmakers fail to act within the 45 days, they cannot adjourn or act on other bills until they solve the crisis.

Meanwhile, legislators in more than a half-dozen other states frantically worked to stave off government shutdowns and devastating service cuts.

In Illinois, home to the third-largest U.S. city Chicago, the sputtering drive to come up with a state budget broke down completely Tuesday, leaving the state without any plan for paying its employees or delivering government services. The session ended without any firm plans to return or even for state leaders to resume negotiations.

In Pennsylvania, Gov. Ed Rendell said Tuesday night he didn't think an agreement with

lawmakers would come soon. State workers are to receive only partial pay on July 17 and July 24, after which paychecks will be withheld entirely until the impasse is solved. They will then be paid retroactively.

The end of June marked the end of the fiscal year in many U.S. states, meaning lawmakers worked late Tuesday to pass budgets in a year that has seen the recession take a devastating toll on government finances.

Arizona, Indiana, Ohio, Connecticut and Mississippi also were among the other states that raced against the clock to pass budgets — and avoid crippling consequences.

Fallout from California's budget mess threatened to spread nationwide because of the sheer size of the state's economy, is eighth-largest in the world. Though California is just one of 50 U.S. states, it is home to one in eight Americans.

California's government shutdown will lead to a third furlough day for 235,000 state employees, bringing their total pay cut to about 14 percent.

"California needed the Legislature to act boldly and with conviction. Their response was not a solution to California's budget problem but an invitation to actually a bigger financial crisis," Schwarzenegger said.

Continued on Next Page

Demand high for tickets to visit Liberty's crown



In this June 2, 2009 photo, the Statue of Liberty is seen in New York harbor. The crown is set to open July 4 after being closed since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It's hot, it's dark and it's crowded, but people just can't wait to visit.

The Statue of Liberty's crown is opening to tourists on July Fourth for the first time in eight years. It closed shortly after terrorists leveled the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

The National Park Service denies the closing had anything to do with terrorism and says the statue's interior was in need of repair anyway.

But some wonder why it took so long for the crown to reopen. New York Congressman Anthony Weiner calls the eight-year closure "a partial victory for terrorists" and an "embarrassment for the federal government."

Tickets for the July Fourth weekend sold out within hours. □

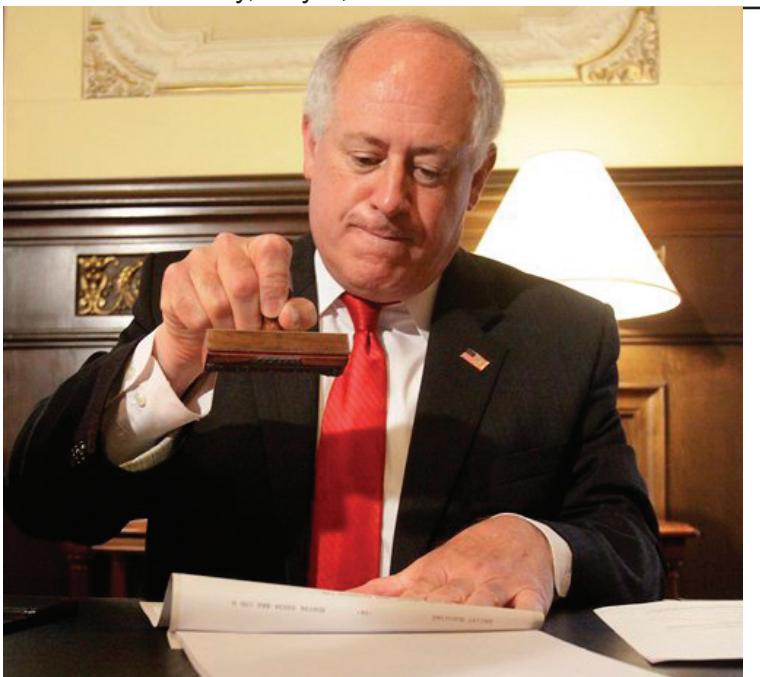


Guests attend a ceremony marking the gambling zone's first day at a casino at a complex named Azov-City, an ambitious project of casinos and slot machine parlors that is currently little more than a construction site, some 250 miles north of Krasnodar, southern Russia, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Thousands of casinos, slot-machine parlors and betting halls across Russia shut down Wednesday, complying with sweeping new restrictions that require all gambling business to relocate to four remote regions of the country.

Associated Press

Russian gambling halls shut down in most cities

Read Page B6



Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn vetoes the Illinois budget in his office at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield, Ill., Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

BUDGET CHOICES

Continued from Page B1

A state employee union that represents engineers immediately said it would sue to stop Schwarzenegger's latest furlough order. The Professional Engineers in California Government already sued over Schwarzenegger's previous furlough orders.

Associated Press

A state appeals court ruling Tuesday created more difficulties for lawmakers trying to reach a budget agreement by barring the state from raiding local transportation funds to pay for other programs. In his budget proposal, Schwarzenegger had counted on shifting nearly \$1 billion in transit money

from local governments to the state.

The administration said it will appeal the ruling.

Schwarzenegger's office said the governor did not want a partial fix. Aides said he believes it would let lawmakers off the hook and make it more difficult to close the entire deficit in the weeks ahead.

One challenge in reaching a compromise has been Democrats' refusal to accept

the deep cuts to college aid, children's health care and welfare programs contained in Schwarzenegger's budget proposal.

California's deficit has been widening this year as tax revenue, leaving the state with too little money to pay all its bills.

Chiang, the state controller, has said he will have to issue about \$3 billion worth of promissory notes this month to state contractors, college

students and taxpayers owed refunds unless there is a budget-balancing agreement. California will not run out of cash immediately. While spending obligations will begin outpacing revenue without a balanced budget in place, the promissory notes will delay a cash crisis until September. At that point, the state will be in jeopardy of running out of cash unless lawmakers figure out a way to pass a balanced budget. □

Republicans lose last Jewish senator

JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The defeat of incumbent Norm Coleman in the drawn-out Minnesota Senate race leaves U.S. Republicans without a Jewish senator for the first time in half a century.

Coleman's departure comes two months after the Republicans' other Jewish member, Arlen Specter, switched parties to become a Democrat. Coleman conceded his long-contested race with Democratic challenger Al Franken on Tuesday after the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected Coleman's legal challenge.

Republicans have had at least one Jewish senator since New York's Jacob Javits took office in 1957, reaching a peak of three during the mid-1980s.

In the House, Eric Cantor has risen quickly since he took office in 2001 to become the minority whip, the second-ranked House Republican. His other distinction is that, since 2003, he is the only Jewish Republican in the 435-member body.

That is down from eight Jewish Republican members who served in the House during the 1990s.

There are currently 30 Democrats in the House who list their religion as Jewish. □



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ICE launches workplace immigration crackdown

SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration launched investigations of hundreds of businesses around the U.S. Wednesday as part of its strategy to focus immigration enforcement on the employers who hire illegal workers.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has begun notifying businesses of plans to audit their I-9 forms — employment eligibility documents that employers fill out for every worker — the agency told members of Congress in an e-mail Wednesday.

President Barack Obama has said his administration's strategy for stemming illegal immigration would focus on employers who hire illegal workers.

The Bush administration was criticized for deploying armed agents to raid businesses and arrest workers suspected to be working illegally. Critics said the Bush administration did not do enough to go after the employers.

Immigration officers served "Notices of Inspection" to 652 businesses, the Homeland Security Department said. By comparison, 503 such notices were issued to businesses last year, the agency said. Businesses were chosen for inspections based on leads and other investigative work, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said.

Employers are required to keep the I-9 forms and must check the authenticity of documents provided by the employee. The Homeland Security Department said it would not release the names or locations of the businesses that are being audited because of the ongoing investigations. "ICE is committed to

establishing a meaningful I-9 inspection program to promote compliance with the law," John Morton, Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, said in a statement. "This nationwide effort is a first step in ICE's longterm strategy to address and deter illegal employment."

The Obama administration has been trying to build its credibility on immigration enforcement to boost the chances of passing an immigration reform bill in Congress. The administration has doubted whether it has enough votes right now to pass immigration reform. But some members of Congress

emerged from a meeting with Obama last week saying immigration reform could be done by the end of the year or early next year.

The I-9 audits are certain to cause concern among employers who have complained that identifying illegal workers is fraught with problems, from recognizing fake identity documents made to look authentic to risking violating anti-discrimination laws.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has said investigations will focus on businesses that knowingly hire immigrants who cannot legally work in the U.S. □



This Jan. 23, 2007 file photo shows Maricopa County Sheriff's Detention officers Raphaelita Montoya, right, and Victor Navarette, beginning the initial on-scene processing of a suspected illegal immigrant, in Wickenburg, Ariz. As America's busiest immigrant smuggling hub, Arizona has earned the distinction as a place that's tough on people who sneak across the border.

Associated Press

Flight diverted to NM after passenger gets naked

HEATHER CLARK

Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — A passenger stripped naked during a US Airways flight and resisted a flight attendant's efforts to cover him with a blanket before two off-duty law enforcement officers on board subdued and handcuffed him, authorities said Wednesday.

Keith Wright, 50, of the Bronx in New York, was taken into custody after he disrobed while sitting in his seat in the back of Flight 705 on Tuesday evening, authorities said. The plane was carrying about 148 passengers from North Carolina to Los Angeles, the airline said.

Wright was unresponsive when a flight attendant asked him to put his clothes back on, said Dan Jiron, a spokesman for the Albuquerque airport. "She asked him

on more than one occasion to put on his clothes. She covered him with a blanket and he took that off," Jiron said.

Wright punched and kicked the flight attendant, who asked two off-duty law officers for help, according to a criminal complaint. A Los Angeles police officer and sheriff's deputy helped the flight attendant subdue and handcuff Wright before the flight landed, Jiron said.

The flight attendants also were dealing with an unrelated onboard medical emergency at the same time, which exacerbated the situation, the FBI said. The aircraft was diverted because of the medical emergency, and Wright's actions were a secondary reason for the unplanned landing, the complaint said.

Roger Finzel, an assistant federal public defender representing Wright, said he has not yet met with his client and had no information about the case other than

what was in the complaint.

Wright told the FBI he is suffering from a bipolar disorder and had not taken his prescribed medication before leaving New York that morning, the criminal complaint said. Wright told the FBI he recalled nothing about the flight or his behavior, it said.

Wright had been seen dancing in a crowded boarding area before the flight, but when approached by Flight Service Supervisor Claudia Kearney, he told her he had drunk one beer. Kearney told the FBI she did not smell alcohol on him and determined he was well enough to travel, the complaint said.

US Airways spokeswoman Valerie Wunder could not confirm that Kearney worked for the airline.

Passenger Ginny Keegan was sitting in the front of the plane, when there was commotion coming from the back. □

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U.S. suspends military relations with Honduras



Ousted Honduran president Manuel Zelaya holds a resolution as he speaks during a meeting of the Organization of American States in Washington early Wednesday, July 1, 2009. A defiant Roberto Micheletti said in an interview with The Associated Press late Tuesday that "no one can make me resign," defying the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Obama administration and other leaders that have condemned the military coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya.

Associated Press

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration said Wednesday it has suspended joint military operations with Honduras to protest a coup that forced President

Manuel Zelaya into exile. The U.S. withheld stronger action, however, in hopes of negotiating a peaceful return of the country's elected leader. The Organization of American States, meeting in Washington, gave Honduran coup leaders

three days to restore Zelaya to power, under threat of suspending Honduras' OAS membership. Afterward, several officials said the administration was reviewing the possibility of cutting off U.S. aid.

Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, said, "We continue to monitor the situation and will respond accordingly as events transpire."

At the State Department, spokesman Ian C. Kelly said the department's top diplomat for the Americas, Thomas Shannon, met with Zelaya at OAS headquarters Tuesday night. Kelly would not reveal details, except to say Zelaya thanked the administration for supporting his unconditional return to power.

Kelly said he was not aware of any plan to recall the U.S. ambassador from the Honduran capital. Another official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said the administration believes it stands a better chance of achieving a peaceful outcome if it keeps a diplomat in

Tegucigalpa. The official also said the United States was not advocating that the matter be taken up by the U.N. Security Council.

Kelly said the administration still was studying whether the forced removal of Zelaya was a military coup in a legal sense that would trigger a cutoff or suspension of American financial aid.

"Our legal advisers are actively assessing the facts and the law in question, which we take very seriously," Kelly said.

The administration appeared to be counting on the threat of Honduras having its OAS membership suspended as leverage in getting Zelaya back in power. While the administration joined the OAS in calling for Zelaya's unconditional return, with no limits on his presidential powers, it also seemed open to some form of compromise.

U.S. officials said they were pleased that Zelaya, who had vowed to return to Honduras on Thursday, put that off after the OAS announced the three-day deadline for the country's interim leaders to accept him. Zelaya was in Panama

on Wednesday to attend that country's presidential inauguration. He said he would put off his return until the weekend.

The decision to suspend U.S. military activities in Honduras was announced by Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman, who said, "We've postponed any activities in Honduras right now as we assess that situation."

Whitman would not be specific, but the suspension could have broad implications because the United States runs a large Central American security and counternarcotics operation from a jointly run air base in Honduras. Whitman said only operations affecting Honduras itself are on hold. Earlier, OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza delivered what he called "an ultimatum" for Zelaya's safe return.

In a sharply worded resolution, the OAS said it vehemently condemned the coup and "the arbitrary detention and expulsion" of Zelaya.

The coup, the OAS resolution said, has produced an "unconstitutional alteration of the democratic order."

Calling Zelaya's overthrow an "old-fashioned coup," Insulza said: "We need to show clearly that military coups will not be accepted. We thought we were in an era when military coups were no longer possible in this hemisphere."

Zelaya has said he intends to return home accompanied by Insulza, the presidents of Argentina and Ecuador and the head of the U.N. General Assembly to seek restoration of his authority.

Roberto Micheletti, named by Honduras' Congress as the new president, said Tuesday that Zelaya could be met with an arrest warrant if he should return. □

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Officials: Escaped pet python strangled child

MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press Writer

OXFORD, Florida (AP) — A 12-foot pet Burmese python broke out of an terrarium and strangled a 2-year-old girl in her bedroom Wednesday at a central Florida home, authorities said.

Shaunna Hare was already dead when paramedics arrived at about 10 a.m., police Lt. Bobby Caruthers said.

Charles Jason Darnell, the snake's owner and the boyfriend of Shaunna's mother, discovered the snake missing from its terrarium and went to the girl's room, where he found it on the girl and bite marks on her head, Caruthers said. Darnell, 32, stabbed the snake until he was able to pry the child away.

Authorities removed the snake from the home Wednesday afternoon. Once outside the small, tan home, bordered by cow pastures, the snake was placed in a bag then inside a dog crate. The snake was still alive.

Darnell did not have a permit for the snake, which would be a second-degree misdemeanor, said Joy Hill, a spokeswoman with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has not been charged, but

Caruthers said investigators were looking into whether there was child neglect or if any other laws were broken. Hill said the snake will be placed with someone who has a permit, pending an investigation into the girl's death.

The Humane Society of the United States said including Wednesday's death, at least 12 people have been killed in the U.S. by pet pythons since 1980, including five children.

Burmese pythons are not native to Florida, but they easily survive in the state and can reach a length of 26 feet and weigh more than 200 pounds.

Some owners have freed pythons into the wild and a population of them has taken hold in the Everglades. One killed an alligator and then burst when it tried to eat it. Scientists also speculate a number of Burmese pythons escaped in 1992 from pet shops battered by Hurricane Andrew and have been reproducing since.

"It's becoming more and more of a problem, perhaps no fault of the animal, more a fault of the human," said Jorge Pino, a state wildlife commission spokesman. "People purchase these animals when they're small."

When they grow, they either can't control them or release them."

George Van Horn, owner of Reptile World Serpentarium in St. Cloud, said the strangulation could have occurred because the snake felt threatened or because it thought the child was food. "They are always operating on instinct," he said. "Even the largest person can become overpowered by a python." □



Police measure a Burmese python after removing it from a home in Oxford, Fla. on Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Charles Jason Darnell, the snake's owner and the boyfriend of Shaunna's mother, discovered the snake missing from its terrarium and went to the girl's room, where he found it on the girl and bite marks on her head, Caruthers said. Darnell, 32, stabbed the snake until he was able to pry the child away.

Associated Press

Little Robby's "R"

Little Chinese Robby
had a problem with the "R"
and did not know if it came from:
Fear, Fair or Fare

So one day Lobby took a long
tlan lide (ride) to see his Glandfather
for advice
It was an expensive tlan fare

He bid fare well to his mother
and made the long journey
With no fare money left and a
ticket clutched in his hand
he reached the lice (rice) land

Sit down my Little Lobby his Glandfather said
What is your ploblem Lobby?
I have this teleble (terrible) fear for the "R"
That's why I came to where you are
I don't know if it's fear, fair or fare

There is no danger in the "R"
So you don't have to fear it
Never be timid to use it
It is all fair play (base ball= not foul play)

You once had a fair (blond haired) aunt
They called her Lady Fair (attractive, beautiful)
She worked at a Fair (bazaar)
She was fearsome (causing fear) and fearlessly
Frightened was also me

She also had two felocious (ferocious) tigers
that were a cause for fear

I got it Glandfather, I got it Glandfather
Lobby said as he dashed, like a Little Ox
across the lice field
Wait, wait Lobby you folgot
the money for the tlan fare.



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Russian gambling halls shut down in most cities



MIKE ECKEL

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — One of the glitziest symbols of cash-splashing Russians vanished from Russia's cityscapes as a law banning casinos, slot-machine parlors and betting halls outside four remote regions of the country came into effect.

The law, a brainchild of Russia's famously anti-vice Prime Minister Vladimir

Putin, was estimated to put 400,000 people out of work at a time when Russia's economic crisis is deepening and unemployment is rising. The government is also forgoing billions of tax dollars and observers say it could drive gambling — an industry understood to be controlled by a criminal element — underground.

A gamble worth taking, say officials, who hope to root

out the criminal element and project Putin's image as a clean-cut workaholic onto the general population.

Following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, casinos mushroomed across the country, especially in the capital, drenched in oil wealth. Slot machines quickly spread beyond gaming halls to shops and malls across the country. As Moscow steadily accrued more dollar billionaires than almost any other city in the world, gambling exploded to produce several casino strips and a few multilevel super complexes. Drivers would fidget half-asleep at the wheel of souped-up SUVs that clotted casino parking lots, waiting into the early hours for their masters to play just one more hand.

But as of midnight Wednesday, no more signs were unscrewed, doors locked, equipment

destroyed as Russia's gaming industry dismantled practically nationwide.

Officials at some of the businesses said they would reopen as market research companies, or would rent out their valuable, often centrally located real estate.

The gambling law, passed three years ago at then-President Putin's initiative, confines gambling to four special zones in far-flung regions of Russia, most thousands of miles away from Moscow.

Casinos and slot machines will be allowed to operate only in Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea; the Primorsky region on the Pacific coast; the mountainous Altai region in Siberia; and near the southern cities of Krasnodar and Rostov, host to the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Construction at most of the sites is, however, still in its early stages, meaning it will

be months or years before major legal gambling resumes in Russia.

The lack of progress was painfully evident Wednesday at the southern Russian zone, straddling the regions of Krasnodar and Rostov on the Azov Sea.

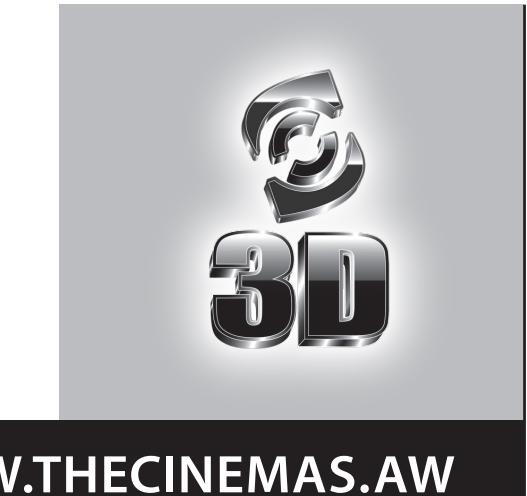
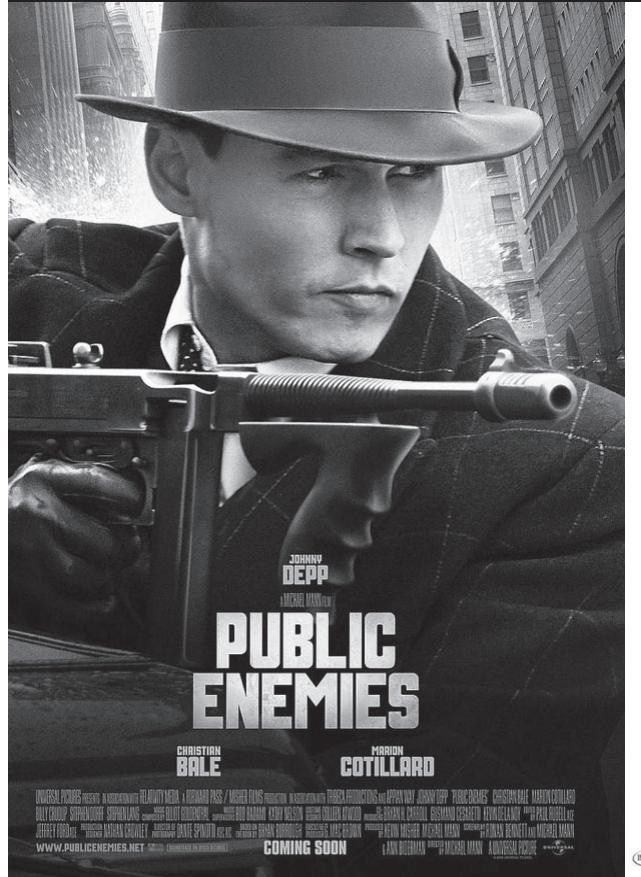
There, authorities have allotted a coastal stretch of land to a complex named Azov-City, an ambitious project of casinos and slot machine parlors that is currently little more than a construction site.

Krasnodar region governor Alexander Tkachyov attended a humble ceremony marking the gambling zone's first day, and used the occasion to call for investors to plow their cash into the region.

A token roulette wheel and a couple of poker tables were set up in a marquee adjacent to the construction site to greet the new law. □



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AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS daily: 4:15 6:15 late show:  NEW

R PUBLIC ENEMIES daily: 5:45 late show: 8:45  NEW

PG-13 TRANSFORMER 2 daily: 6:00 late show: 9:00 

R THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 daily: 5:15 late show: 7:30 9:45 

PG-13 YEAR ONE daily: 5:50 late show: 8:00 

PG UP 3D daily: 12:05 late show: 

PG-13 TERMINATOR SALVATION daily: 8:15 late show: 11:00 

PG IMAGINE THAT daily: 4:55 late show: 7:10 

matinee: 12:10 2:30 late show: 9:30 11:50

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS daily: 4:00 6:00 8:00 late show:  NEW

R PUBLIC ENEMIES daily: 5:45 8:45 late show: 11:35  NEW

PG-13 THE PROPOSAL daily: 4:30 6:45 9:00 late show: 11:15 

PG LAND OF THE LOST daily: 10:00 late show: 12:05 

R THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 daily: 5:30 7:45 late show: 10:00 12:10 

PG IMAGINE THAT daily: 4:40 late show: 

matinee: 12:00 2:20 late show: 

PG-13 YEAR ONE daily: 7:00 9:20 late show: 11:30 

PG-13 THE SOLOIST daily: 5:50 8:15 late show: 11:00 

matinee: 12:55 3:20 late show: 

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Bolivia leader says Obama 'lied' about cooperation

CARLOS VALDEZ

Associated Press Writer

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — President Evo Morales on Wednesday accused Barack Obama of lying by pledging to change America's historically heavy-handed relationship with Latin America and then halting \$25 million in annual trade benefits for Bolivia.

The U.S. on Tuesday said it is ending the import duty waivers because world's No. 3 cocaine-producing country is not doing enough to reduce "unconstrained" cultivation of coca.

Morales said the move contradicts Obama's promise at the Summit of the Americas in April to be a peer rather than an overseer of countries in the region. "President Obama lied to Latin America when he told us in Trinidad and Tobago that there are not senior and junior partners," he told reporters.

The former coca-growers' union leader, who expelled U.S. drug agents from his country last year, said the U.S. trade representative used "pure lies and insults" to justify its decision.

The trade office said there has been "explicit acceptance and encouragement of coca production at the highest levels of the Bolivian government."

Bolivia, which considers coca a sacred crop that has many traditional uses other than cocaine, says the U.S. move will cost the impoverished country about 20,000 jobs, particularly in textiles and leather. The country has had only limited success in developing alternatives to U.S. markets, said the of the Bolivian Foreign Trade Institute, Gary Rodriguez, told The Associated Press that Bolivia has had limited success in trying to compensate for the anticipated loss of U.S. markets and that he expected Tuesday's announcement to lead to layoffs.

"Neither Venezuela, Iran, Argentina or even Brazil have so far worked as alternative markets," he said.

Venezuela had promised to buy \$13 million in goods over the past year but the La Paz exporter's association, CAME, said Venezuela



Bolivia's President Evo Morales speaks during a press conference in La Paz, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. Morales called President Barack Obama "the new policeman", and accused him of lying to Latin America after his administration extended a decision to suspend trade preferences for Bolivia, made six months ago by former President George Bush.

Associated Press

lacks the U.S. dollars to pay for them.

The U.S. is extending tariff exemptions for Ecuador for another six months as part of the Andean Trade Preference Act, but Ecuador, Peru and Colombia will see those duty-free privileges expire at year's end. The region's cocaine-producing and transit countries have been allowed to export thousands of products to the United

States duty-free since 1991 in hopes that income from legal exports will help wean peasants off selling coca, but that hasn't happened. The U.S. government estimates Bolivia's potential cocaine yield at 195 metric tons, and Morales himself said Wednesday that coca cultivation is up in Bolivia — by 6 percent last year by U.N. survey. But he said his government is making a

good-faith control effort. U.S. drug agents say landlocked Bolivia exports most of its cocaine to Europe through Brazil and Argentina. The trade office said the DEA previously had 57 employees in four Bolivian cities. Now those agents are spread elsewhere across the region, leaving what U.S. law enforcement officials call a black hole in Bolivia. □

Major military operation under way in Afghanistan

FISNIK ABRASHI

LARA JAKES

Associated Press Writers

KABUL(AP)—Thousands of U.S. Marines and hundreds of Afghan troops moved into Taliban-infested villages with armor and helicopters early Thursday in the first major operation under President Barack Obama's revamped strategy to stabilize Afghanistan.

The offensive in the once-forgotten war was launched shortly after 1 a.m. Thursday local time in Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold in the southern part of the country and the world's largest opium poppy producing area.

The goal is to clear insurgents from the hotly contested Helmand River Valley before the nation's Aug. 20 presidential election.

Dubbed Operation Khanjar, or "Strike of the Sword," the military push was described by officials as the largest and fastest-moving of the war's new phase. British forces

last week led similar, but smaller, missions to fight and clear out insurgents in Helmand and neighboring Kandahar provinces.

"Where we go we will stay, and where we stay, we will hold, build and work toward transition of all security responsibilities to Afghan forces," Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson said in a statement.

Southern Afghanistan is a Taliban stronghold but also a region where Afghan President Hamid Karzai is seeking votes from fellow Pashtun tribesmen.

The Pentagon is deploying 21,000 additional troops to Afghanistan in time for the elections and expects the total number of U.S. forces there to reach 68,000 by year's end. That is double the number of troops in Afghanistan in 2008, but still half of much as are now in Iraq.

The Taliban who ruled Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001 and were ousted from power following a U.S.-led invasion, have



In this photo taken Saturday, June 13, 2009, the Afghan flag flies on the mud roof of an Afghan National police post seen from a guard tower of a U.S. Marine base near the town of Golestan in Afghanistan's Farah Province. In announcing his new Afghan policy, President Barack Obama said strengthening local security forces was a priority. The administration is aiming for a trained, equipped and professional force of 82,000 police by the end of 2011.

Associated Press

made a violent comeback, wreaking havoc in much of the country's south and east forcing the United States to pour in the new troops.

Capt. Bill Pelletier, a spokesman for the Marines said the troops involved in the Thursday operation were sent in by a mixture of aircraft and ground transport under the cover of darkness.

The operation is aimed at putting pressure on insurgents, "and to show our commitment to the Afghan people that when we come in we are going to stay long enough to set up their own institutions," Pelletier said.

A roadside bomb wounded one of the Marines participating in the operation, but he was able to continue, while there were no reports of clashes in the operation's initial stage, he said.

Once on the ground, the troops will conduct meetings with local leaders, hear what their needs are, and act on them, Pelletier said.

"We do not want people of Helmand province to see us as an enemy, we want to protect them from the enemy," Pelletier said.

Reversing the insurgency's momentum has been one of the key components of the new U.S. strategy, and thousands of additional troops allow commanders to push and stay into areas

where international and Afghan troops had no permanent presence before. While Marine troops were the bulk of the force, recently arrived U.S. Army helicopters were also taking part in the operation in Helmand province.

In March, Obama unveiled his strategy for Afghanistan, seeking to defeat al-Qaida terrorists there and in Pakistan with a bigger force and a new commander. Taliban and other extremists, including those allied with al-Qaida, routinely cross the two nations' border in Afghanistan's remote south.

The governor of Helmand province predicted the

operation would be "very effective."

"The security forces will build bases to provide security for the local people so that they can carry out every activity with this favorable background, and take their lives forward in peace," Gov. Gulab Mangal said in a Pentagon news release.

Obama's strategy aims to boost the size of the Afghan army from 80,000 to 134,000 troops by 2011 — and greatly increase training by U.S. troops accompanying them — so the Afghan military can defeat Taliban insurgents and take control of the war. The White House also is pushing forces to set clear goals for a war gone awry, to get the American people behind them, to provide more resources and to make a better case for international support.

There is no timetable for withdrawal, and the White House has not estimated how many billions of dollars its plan will cost. □

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Teen clung to Comoros plane wreckage for 13 hours

ANGELA CHARLTON

TOM MALITI

Associated Press Writers

MORONI, Comoros (AP) —

The lone survivor of a Yemeni jetliner crash, who clung to wreckage for 13 hours before being rescued, lay in a hospital bed with a broken collarbone, asking for little — except for a chance to see her mother.

But relatives said 14-year-old Bahia Bakari was too traumatized to be told her mother was feared dead, along with 151 others on board the Yemenia airways flight.

"I have told her that her mother is in the next room," the girl's uncle, Joseph Yousouf, told The Associated Press outside a hospital Wednesday in this former French colony, where the jetliner was attempting to land in fierce winds before dawn Tuesday when it slammed into the Indian Ocean.

He said the girl was coherent and asking for food.

"They were coming to Comoros for vacation," Yousouf said of Bahia, who lived with her parents and three younger siblings outside Paris. "She was going to be staying with her grandmother."

The girl's father, Kassim Bakari, described his daughter as "fragile" and said she could "barely swim," but still managed to hang on for hours.

Her account of the crash aftermath seemed to indicate others survived the initial impact.

"I spoke to her this afternoon ... and I asked her what happened," Bakari said from his home in a suburb south of Paris. "She said 'Papa, we saw the plane going down in the water. I was in the water, I could hear people talking, but I couldn't see anyone. I was in the dark, I couldn't see a thing.'"

Bakari fingered his wife Aziza's old passport as he recalled the final moments before she and his daughter boarded the plane in Paris.

"When we arrived at the airport, I kissed both, then my wife turned around, she looked at me and she waved," he said. "That was the last time I saw my wife alive. My daughter... I will see her again I hope,

but for my wife it was the last time."

The passengers on the downed plane, an aging Airbus 310, were flying the last leg of a journey from Paris and Marseille to Comoros, with a stop in Yemen to change planes. Most on board were from Comoros and 66 were French citizens. Severe turbulence was believed to be a factor in the crash, Yemen's embassy in Washington said. For many, Bahia's survival was nothing short of miraculous.

On Wednesday, more than a dozen people — most of them government officials — crowded into a small room in Moroni's El Maaruf Hospital where Bahia lay curled in a fetal position, covered by a blue blanket.

She was conscious with bruises on her face and gauze bandages on her right elbow and right foot; at one point, she gamely shook the hand of Alain Joyandet, France's minister for international cooperation.

"It is a true miracle. She is a courageous young girl," Joyandet said of Bahia, who held onto floating debris from 1:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. before she was seen by a passing boat, which rescued her.

"She really showed an absolutely incredible physical and moral strength," he said. "She is physically out of danger, but she is evidently very traumatized."

Bahia was flown home to Paris late Wednesday aboard a chartered executive jet and was to be taken to a hospital for further treatment, Joyandet said. French and American recovery crews, meanwhile, continued to search for the plane's black boxes in deep waters off the Comoros after detecting a distress beacon.

Officials hope the flight data and cockpit voice recorders will provide clues to the cause of the crash. Once retrieved, they will be taken to France for analysis, Yemenia said.

It was not immediately clear which section of the passenger cabin the girl had been sitting in. But if the plane flew into the water at speed, the impact damage to the fuselage would have been so violent and extensive that no part of the

cabin would have been safer than any other, experts said.

Hassan al-Hawthi, the head of maintenance at Yemenia, told reporters Wednesday that air traffic controllers had instructed the pilot to change course because of the strong wind. He said there was no distress call before the crash.

The London-based International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association said the plane may have been trying to go around for another approach when it hit the sea.

The 9,558-feet (2,913-meter) long runway at Prince Said Ibrahim International Airport on Moroni island is adequate for modern airliners, but is considered a difficult one due to weather conditions and the surrounding hills.

Some airlines provide special training to pilots who need to fly in there.

Pilots coming in from the north, as the Yemenia flight was doing, must land their planes visually and don't have any all-weather instrument landing system to help them. "The field in question is thought of as being challenging, and certain operators consider it a daytime-only airport," said Gideon Ewers of the pilots' association.

Tuesday's crash came two years after aviation officials reported equipment faults with the plane.

The French air accident investigation agency BEA was sending a team of safety investigators, accompanied by advisers from Airbus, to Comoros, an archipelago of three main islands 1,800 miles (2,900 kilometers) south of Yemen, between Africa's southeastern coast and the island of Madagascar.

A judicial inquiry headed by three judges was also opened to determine the cause of the crash and those who eventually could be held responsible.

Rescue boats plied the waters north of the main island Wednesday and scores of people gathered on nearby beaches to watch.

"The sea is pretty rough at the present time, the wind is blowing hard and the drift is strong ... The bodies of the victims and the debris are drifting rapidly towards



Surrounded by doctors, the only survivor of the Yemenia Airbus 310 jet crash, 14-year-old Bahia Bakari, is seen in a hospital bed, through the window of the room where she is being cared for at the El Maaruf Hospital in Moroni, Comoros, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. The Yemenia Airbus 310 jet was carrying 153 people to the island nation of Comoros when it crashed into the sea early Tuesday as it attempted to land in the dark amid howling winds.

Associated Press

the north," said Christophe Prazuck, spokesman for the French military joint staff.

The tragedy prompted an outcry in Comoros, where residents have long complained of a lack of seat belts on Yemenia flights and planes so overcrowded that passengers had to stand in the aisles.

French aviation inspectors found a "number of faults" in

the plane's equipment during a 2007 inspection, French Transport Minister Dominique Bussereau said.

European Union Transport Commissioner Antonio Tajani said the airline had previously met EU safety checks but would now face a full investigation amid questions over why passengers were put on another jet in Yemen for the final leg to Comoros. □



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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY****AL Roundup****Red Sox stage own comeback, beat O's 6-5 in 11**

Boston Red Sox's Julio Lugo swings for a single to drive in the winning run against the Baltimore Orioles during the 11th inning of a baseball game on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, in Baltimore. The Red Sox won 6-5.

Associated Press

WNBA Roundup**Wiggins leads Lynx over Dream**

ATLANTA (AP) — Candice Wiggins scored 23 points and Nicky Anosike had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Minnesota Lynx to a 91-85 win over the Atlanta Dream on Tuesday night.

Charde Houston added 18 points for the Lynx (7-3), who made 13 3-pointers to win their third straight. Roneeka Hodges had 15 points on 5-for-7 shooting from beyond the arc.

Iziane Castro Marques scored 31 points for the Dream (4-6), who remained one victory from eclipsing last season's total.

The Lynx went on a 14-2 run early in the third quarter, capped by Hodges' back-to-back 3s to give them a 70-54

lead.

Wiggins has picked up the scoring slack for Minnesota since Seimone Augustus' season-ending knee injury, averaging 23.3 points during the winning streak.

Mystics 84, Silver Stars 82
At San Antonio, Alana Beard hit a 16-footer with 1.9 seconds left to help the Mystics beat the Silver Stars.

The Mystics (5-3) broke a three-game losing streak. The Silver Stars (3-4) were trying to edge past the .500 mark for the first time this season. Beard and Lindsey Harding led the Mystics with 19 points apiece. Beard picked up her fifth foul before the

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Boston Red Sox rallied from four down in the ninth to beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-5 in 11 innings in the American League on Wednesday.

Julio Lugo singled in the tiebreaking run in the 11th. Jonathan Papelbon got the last three outs for his 20th save this season and 133rd with the Red Sox, breaking the team record held by Bob Stanley. Less than 24 hours earlier, Papelbon yielded the key hit in the eighth inning of a game in which Boston blew a 10-1 lead before losing 11-10.

In this one, Red Sox pitchers retired the final 24 batters. Ty Wigginton hit a leadoff homer in the fourth off Josh Beckett to put the Orioles up 5-1, but that would be Baltimore's final baserunner.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 0

At Toronto, Ricky Romero pitched four-hit ball over eight innings, and Rod Barajas, Adam Lind and Scott Rolen each homered as Toronto ended Tampa Bay's seven-game winning streak.

Romero (6-3) matched the longest outing of his career in winning his third straight start. He walked four, struck out seven and lowered his ERA to 2.85.

Toronto snapped a four-game losing streak thanks to a trio of solo home runs off James Shields (6-6).

Twins 5, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Joe Mauer went 3 for 3, raising his average to .392 and backing pitcher Glen Perkins in Minnesota's victory. After walking in the first inning, Mauer stroked three consecutive singles, driving in one run and scoring another as the Twins completed a 6-3 trip. He was walked intentionally in the eighth.

Perkins (4-4) allowed one run for the second straight start, in seven innings.

Athletics 5, Tigers 1

At Oakland, California, Jason Giambi and Jack Cust broke out of funks with two-run homers, Dallas Braden ended a four-start winless span, and Oakland beat Detroit.

Giambi, with an AL-low .197 batting average, homered in the sixth off Justin Verlander (8-4). Cust had been 4 for 24 with 13 strikeouts in his previous seven games.

Braden (6-7) pitched seven strong innings to win for the first time in five starts since June 5. □



Washington Mystics' Chasity Melvin attempts a shot as San Antonio Silver Stars' Sophia Young (33) and Ruth Riley, right, defend during a WNBA basketball game in San Antonio, Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

Associated Press

The Sky improved to a franchise record 5-0 at home. Nicole Powell scored 21 to lead the Monarchs, who have lost six straight and slipped to a league-worst 1-8 overall. Kara Lawson had 11 points for Sacramento.

Sylvia Fowles added 14 points and 14 rebounds for Chicago.

In other WNBA action:
Minnesota 91, Atlanta 85;
Chicago 74, Sacramento 72; and **Washington 84, San Antonio 82.** □

Federer beats Karlovic to reach Wimbledon semis

STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Roger Federer neutralized Ivo Karlovic's huge serves Wednesday to reach the Wimbledon semifinals and move a step closer to a record 15th Grand Slam championship. Two-time finalist Andy Roddick, Andy Murray and Tommy Haas completed the final four.

In a match featuring short points and few rallies, Federer conjured up a few great returns to break the 6-foot-10 Croatian twice and secure a 6-3, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory on another sunbaked day at the All England Club.

Federer, closing in on his sixth Wimbledon title, reached his 21st consecutive semifinal at a Grand Slam tournament and extended his winning streak to 17 matches with another vintage performance on his favorite Centre Court.

"I love the record I have of reaching so many semifinals in Grand Slams in a row — 21 is quite a number," Federer said. "It shows how consistent I've been."

It was Federer's ninth win in 10 matches against Karlovic, who was playing in his first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Federer's next opponent will be Germany's Haas, who upset fourth-seeded Novak Djokovic 7-5, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3 to advance to his first Wimbledon semifinal. The 31-year-old Haas was the oldest player in the quarters, while the 22-year-old Djokovic was the youngest.

The third-seeded Murray swept Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 to reach his first Wimbledon semifinal and keep up his bid to become the first British player to win the men's title since Fred Perry in 1936.

Murray will face the sixth-seeded Roddick, who served 43 aces and outlasted 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt 6-3, 6-7 (10), 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-4 in the day's most competitive match. Hewitt battled back from two sets to one down,

before Roddick broke for 5-4 in the fifth and then served out the match — which ended after 3 hours, 50 minutes when the Australian popped up a forehand half-volley past the baseline.

"It's a testament to the type of player he is that he kept going and made it such a fight," said the 26-year-old Roddick, who lost to Federer in the 2004 and '05 Wimbledon finals.

"I think there's a lot of respect there. We used to get into it a little bit when we were younger, but I think we definitely earned each other's respect. Now we're just a couple of old married dudes, so maybe we've grown up a little bit."

Murray has a 6-2 edge against Roddick, including a straight-set win at Wimbledon in 2006. The American knows he can expect a raucous partisan atmosphere when the two meet on Friday with a spot in the final on the line.

"I'm just going to pretend when they say 'Come on, Andy' that they mean me," Roddick said.

Hewitt, who had 21 aces himself, said he did all that he could to deal with Roddick's rocket serves.

"You know you're going to get aces a lot," he said. "I knew that going into the match.

You're going to get some break points and you're going to see them go pretty quickly as well. It was a matter of trying to hang in there as much as possible and make him play that extra shot. I was nearly able to do it."

Murray broke Ferrero five times, served 18 aces and lost serve only once. Murray had 49 winners, compared to 20 for the Spaniard, a former No. 1 and only third wild card to reach the Wimbledon quarters.

It was a dominant performance by Murray, the first Briton to reach the semifinals since Tim Henman did it for the fourth time in 2002.

"I feel confident because I've won a lot of matches on the grass," Murray said. "But every day, when I get up to play the matches, I know that I'm going to have to perform very well, and that gets the nerves and the adrenaline going and makes me play better."

Karlovic served 23 aces to raise his tournament total to 160, but it was Federer who never faced a break point. The second-ranked Swiss star won 74 of 85 points on serve and was taken to deuce only once, in the sixth game of the third set. Federer got out of that jam with a 129 mph service winner and a 128 mph ace.

winner off a 122 mph serve, pumping his fist and shouting, "Come on!"

It was the first time Karlovic had been broken during the tournament after winning 80 consecutive service games.

"He returned unbelievable few shots and I could not really react on it," said Karlovic, who added that he was bothered by the sun in his eyes before putting on sunglasses for the rest of the match.

The first extended rally of the match — and one of only a handful during the entire contest — didn't take place until the fourth game of the second set, a 15-stroke point that ended with a Federer forehand winner 35 minutes into the match. □

Federer grabbed the upper hand early when he broke Karlovic in the fourth game of the match with flashes of brilliance.

He got to break point with a reflex backhand return winner off a 130 mph serve and then ripped a forehand return



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Andy Roddick of U.S., gives the thumbs up, after defeating Lleyton Hewitt of Australia in their men's singles quarterfinal match at Wimbledon, Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

Associated Press

U.S. swimmers weigh whether to switch to new suits



FILE - In this Sunday, June 28, 2009 file photo, Spain's Aschwin Faber Wildeboer swims to win the men's 200-meter backstroke final at the 2009 Mediterranean Games in Pescara, Italy. Aschwin Faber Wildeboer set a new men's backstroke 100-meter world record clocking 52.38 seconds while swimming his leg of the 400-meter medley relay final at the 2009 Mediterranean Games, Wednesday, July 1, 2009.

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Phelps doesn't plan to experiment with any new suits at next week's U.S. championships. Other swimmers aren't so confident they should stick with what they've worn in the past. Last week's ruling by FINA to approve more high-tech suits leaves them with some decisions to make.

Five-time Olympian Dara Torres expects to try different suits and make a last-minute decision. U.S. team coach Mark Schubert said he would advise swimmers to experiment with various options and choose what they feel most comfortable with. The problem is that for many elite swimmers, their primary

income comes from the suit manufacturer sponsoring them — and they may believe that company no longer makes the fastest suit.

"If you do wear what you think is the fastest suit and then you break a contract, it's a very, very delicate, tough situation," Torres said on a conference call on Wednesday, adding that other swimmers have talked to her about the dilemma.

Phelps told The Associated Press he's sticking with Speedo.

"It's the only suit I've ever worn in my life," he said in a phone interview on Wednesday. "I'm confident that I have the best suit on, and when I stand up on the block that's what I'm thinking."

The introduction of Speedo's NASA-designed LZR Racer

suit 16 months ago sparked a flood of world records — and compelled some swimmers with contracts with other companies to compete in the LZR.

Now swimmers are wondering if newer suits by other manufacturers may be even faster.

The Jaked 01 and Arena X-Glide suits in particular are generating much buzz — and both are approved to be used at the U.S. champs.

"Obviously athletes each have their own companies and have a desire to be successful," Schubert said on the conference call. "That puts them in difficult situations. That's one reason we need to roll the suits back so that's less

of a factor."

Speedo, which sponsors many of the top U.S. swimmers, said on Tuesday it was "continuing to evaluate the situation internally."

Steve Lochte, father of Olympic gold medalist Ryan Lochte, said his son "made a long-term commitment to Speedo and is going to be loyal to Speedo." But the elder Lochte, a longtime swim coach, acknowledged the technological arms race could strain even the most loyal endorser. If at the worlds this month a particular suit is setting records left and right, Ryan will face quite a conundrum.

Steve Lochte was taken aback to hear Spain's Aschwin

Wildeboer Faber had set the 100-meter backstroke world record earlier in the day. Faber finished seventh at the Beijing Olympics, nearly a second behind gold medalist Aaron Peirsol's world record-setting time — which Faber broke on Wednesday.

Of course, Lochte had to ask: What was he wearing? The answer: a Jaked. It's a question that will be posed many more times this summer.

"It does take away from some things," Phelps said. "A lot of swimmers are going to put up a lot of great times this summer, and a lot of it is going to be headlined by the suits. I just think it's not fair to other athletes and the athletes out there performing." □

NL Roundup

Dodgers beat Rockies 1-0 on Furcal's pinch single



Los Angeles Dodgers' Rafael Furcal watches his single that scored the only run of the baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, during the eighth inning in Los Angeles, Wednesday, July 1, 2009. The Dodgers won 1-0.

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Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rafael Furcal's pinch hit RBI single in the eighth inning helped the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Colorado Rockies 1-0 in the National League on Wednesday.

It was the last game of Manny Ramirez's 50-game suspension for violating Major League Baseball's drug policy.

The Dodgers were 29-21 during the absence of the 12-time All-Star, who will return to the lineup on Friday against San Diego.

Brad Ausmus led off the eighth with a single against Rockies starter Jason Hammel (5-4) and advanced on Juan

Castro's sacrifice. Russell Martin ran for Ausmus and scored when Furcal stroked a single to right field.

Mets 1, Brewers 0

At Milwaukee, Mike Pelfrey bailed out New York from a season-worst losing streak, overcoming a career-high 12 strikeouts by young Milwaukee ace Yovani Gallardo.

Pelfrey (6-3) gave up six hits and two walks in 7 2-3 innings, and Ryan Church came through with an RBI single in the sixth as the Mets stopped a five-game losing streak and avoided a series sweep by the Brewers.

Gallardo (8-5) gave up five hits in seven innings.

Marlins 5, Nationals 3

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez extended his RBI streak to 10 games as Florida remained unbeaten against Washington. Cody Ross hit his 14th home run and added an RBI single in the eighth for Florida, which improved to 9-0 against Washington this season. Ramirez hit a two-run double for the Marlins, making him the first shortstop in NL history with an RBI streak of double-digit games, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Josh Willingham was 2 for 4 with a two-run single for Washington, which stranded 13 runners. □



In this Saturday, June 27, 2009 photo, former lightweight boxing world champion Alexis Arguello, right, of Nicaragua, talks with Jose Aponte, the mayor of Carolina, Puerto Rico, during an inauguration of a public boxing gymnasium named after Arguello, in Carolina, Puerto Rico. Arguello, who was also the current mayor of the Nicaraguan capital Managua, was found dead in his Managua home on Wednesday, July 1.

Associated Press

Former boxing champ, Managua Mayor Alexis Arguello dead

FILADELFO ALEMAN

Associated Press Writer

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Boxing great and Managua Mayor Alexis Arguello died at his home of a single gunshot to his chest in an apparent suicide on Wednesday.

An autopsy report said the bullet hit 57-year-old Arguello's heart and left lung, and concluded the probable cause was suicide. Assistant judicial police chief Glenda Zavala said Arguello shot himself with a 9 mm pistol and was already dead when relatives brought him to the hospital.

Arguello, who was elected mayor of Nicaragua's capital last year, had spoken publicly of his struggle with depression, alcohol and drug use.

He retired from boxing in 1995 with a record of 82-8 with 65 knockouts and was a champion in three weight divisions. He was perhaps best known for two thrilling battles with Aaron Pryor and fights with Ray Mancini, Bobby Chacon and Ruben Olivares. "I'm kind of in a daze right now. I can't believe what I'm hearing," Pryor told The Associated Press. "Those were great fights we had. This was a great champion."

Nicknamed "The Explosive Thin Man," Arguello was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1992, where flags were flying at half-staff in his honor on Wednesday.

In 1999, a panel of experts assembled by The AP voted Arguello the best junior lightweight and sixth-best lightweight of the 20th century. He never lost at 130 pounds (59 kilograms), and his popularity in his own country was so great that he carried the flag for Nicaragua at the Beijing Olympics.

"Not only was he one of the greatest fighters I've ever seen, he was the most intelligent fighter," Bob Arum, who promoted some of his biggest fights, told The Associated Press. "He was a ring tactician. Every move was thought out. And he was a wonderful, wonderful person."

Arguello turned pro in 1968 and promptly lost his first bout. He didn't lose much more, and six years later knocked out Olivares in the 13th round to win the world featherweight title.

Arguello went on to win the super featherweight and lightweight titles, his 1.78-meter (5-foot-10) frame allowing him to move up in weight without losing his tremendous punching power. At the time, he was only the sixth boxer to win championships in three weight classes, and was considered for a while the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

Panama's Roberto Duran, another world champion at three weights, expressed disbelief.

"I can't believe it. He was my friend, my brother," Duran said. "His death is a great loss for world boxing and a much greater loss for Nicaragua." □

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The image is a black and white photograph of a woman's face and upper body. She has dark hair and is looking directly at the viewer with a neutral, slightly intense expression. Her skin is smooth, and she appears to be wearing a light-colored top. The lighting is soft, creating a romantic or intimate atmosphere. The overall composition suggests a professional portrait, possibly for a massage or spa advertisement.

A black and white cartoon illustration of a young boy with short hair, wearing a striped shirt under a vest. He is shouting excitedly with his mouth wide open, holding a copy of the "Aruba TODAY" newspaper. The newspaper's masthead is visible at the top, and the front page features a large photo of a person and the headline "WE'RE BACK FROM THE WILDLIFE".

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Magnate asume presidencia en Panamá ante desafíos por crisis

CIUDAD DE PANAMA (Reuters)

- El magnate de los supermercados Ricardo Martinelli asumió el miércoles la presidencia de Panamá, con el reto de guiar al país en medio de la crisis global y concretar promesas de apoyo a los más necesitados.

Martinelli, que se impuso holgadamente en los comicios de mayo a la candidata del saliente Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD), ofreció en su campaña grandes proyectos como un sistema de metro para la capital y más gasto en vivienda.

"Haré todo lo que esté a mi alcance para avanzar los ideales de una economía libre, desafiando el péndulo ideológico de Latinoamérica", dijo en su asunción Martinelli, quien relevó en el cargo al izquierdista Martín Torrijos.

El nuevo mandatario, de 57 años, ha dicho que una de sus prioridades será concretar un tratado de libre comercio con Estados Unidos firmado en el 2007, pero que quedó estancado en el Congreso estadounidense por críticas acerca de que el país centroamericano es un paraíso fiscal para extranjeros.

Impulsada por la industria de la construcción, se espera que la economía panameña crezca un 3 por ciento este año, sin embargo ese sería su desempeño más débil desde el 2002, limitado por la crisis global por la que se ha desplomado el tráfico comercial a través del Canal de Panamá, otro motor económico clave. El Congreso panameño aprobó recientemente una reforma que eleva el techo de endeudamiento que tiene el Gobierno, lo que permitiría a Martinelli -que ocupará el cargo por los próximos cinco años- mayor gasto para apuntalar el crecimiento económico.

"El juego de tener un Gobierno gordo y un pueblo flaco llegó a su fin (...), en mi Gobierno se puede meter la pata, pero no se puede meter la mano", dijo Martinelli en su toma de posición, a la que acudieron mandatarios como el mexicano Felipe Calderón y el colombiano Alvaro Uribe. Además, Martinelli se comprometió a elevar el sueldo de las fuerzas públicas, otorgar una pensión de 100 dólares mensuales a ancianos mayores de 70 años y becas y útiles escolares gratis para los estudiantes. □



El presidente de Panamá, Ricardo Martinelli, se pone de pie tras ser ungido con la banda presidencial en Ciudad de Panamá, 1 jul 2009. REUTERS/Jose Miguel Gomez

Congreso Honduras aprueba suspender garantías en toque de queda

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - El Congreso hondureño aprobó el miércoles la suspensión de algunas garantías individuales durante las horas en que está vigente un toque de queda, mientras el gobierno de Roberto Micheletti desafió el ultimátum de la OEA de restituir al depuesto presidente Manuel Zelaya.

El acuerdo del Congreso fue avalado por aclamación y suspende la libertad de asociación y de circulación, entre otras, dijo a periodistas el diputado Rolando Dubón, del oficialista Partido Liberal.

"No se trata de un estado de excepción ni de un estado de sitio", aseguró Dubón. "Esto se hace por el riesgo que existe porque se sospecha que hay muchas personas de otros países en Honduras y se teme que puedan estar intentando acciones contra la ciudadanía y el

nuevo gobierno", añadió, aunque no dio más detalles sobre la supuesta presencia de extranjeros.

Añadió que están exceptuados de la suspensión de garantías las ambulancias, los bomberos, las patrullas y vehículos que transportan combustibles y los diarios locales. Tampoco hay restricciones para los medios de comunicación, aseguró.

El toque de queda está previsto que al menos hasta el viernes se aplique de las 10 de la noche a las 5 de la mañana.

El gobierno desafió el miércoles el ultimátum de la OEA de restituir al depuesto presidente Manuel Zelaya, mientras los hondureños divididos volvieron a tomar las calles tanto para apoyar al mandatario designado Roberto Micheletti como para exigir el regreso del gobernante derrocado. Unas horas después de que la OEA

pusiera un plazo de tres días para que se restituya en el poder a Zelaya, el gobierno de Micheletti advirtió que no admite intervenciones externas, al tiempo que iniciaba esfuerzos para acercarse a la comunidad internacional y convencerla de que no se han violentado las leyes.

"No estamos dispuestos a restituirlo, porque él ha cometido delitos", declaró el miércoles a la radio colombiana La FM.

"Esperamos la comprensión y la rectificación de estos países que realmente sólo han escuchado una parte del problema", señaló.

Micheletti había asegurado que una misión hondureña ya estaba en Washington "para presentar la verdad de lo que sucedió en el país", aunque posteriormente su canciller Enrique Ortez Colindres dijo a la AP que no había ningún grupo en

la capital estadounidense pero que el embajador hondureño en Estados Unidos Roberto Flores había sido convocado para consultas.

Flores, designado por el gobierno de Zelaya, retornó el miércoles a Tegucigalpa y reconoció como legítimas a las nuevas autoridades.

"Yo reconozco a la cancillería y a las autoridades que están en este momento tomando decisiones en este país", dijo el diplomático a periodistas a su llegada al aeropuerto.

Zelaya, depuesto el domingo por las fuerzas armadas, postergó para el sábado sus intenciones de retornar el jueves a Tegucigalpa acompañado de algunos mandatarios latinoamericanos, a fin de dar tiempo a las gestiones diplomáticas de la OEA. □



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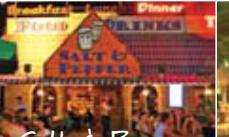
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